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## DOGGIN' IT



Reigning champion Joey Chestnut, center, celebrates with Master of ceremonies George Shea, right, and Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez, after winning the men's competition of the Nathan's Famous Fourth of July hot dog eating contest in the final seconds of the competition, Wednesday, July 4, 2018, in New York's Coney Island. Chestnut broke his own world record by eating 74 hot dogs in 10 minutes.

Associated Press  
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# Americans celebrate July 4 with fireworks, parades, salutes



U.S. flags surrounding the Washington Monument are backlit by the rising sun on Independence Day, Wednesday, July 4, 2018, in Washington.

**NEW YORK (AP)** — With backyard barbecues and fireworks, Americans celebrated Independence Day by participating in time-honored traditions that expressed pride in their country's 242nd birthday. But this quintessential American holiday was being marked with a sense of a United States divided for some, evidenced by competing televised events in the nation's capital. From New York to California, July Fourth festivities ranged from the lively and to the lighthearted, with Macy's July Fourth fireworks and Nathan's Famous hot dog eating contest. The day's events also were stately and traditional, with parades lining streets across the country and the world's oldest commissioned warship firing a 21-gun salute to mark the 242 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. For some Western states, however, the holiday was a bit more muted as high wildfire danger forced communities to cancel fireworks displays. Here are some highlights of

Wednesday's festivities:

## **OLDEST WARSHIP**

The USS Constitution has sailed in Boston Harbor and fired its guns again to mark Independence Day.

The world's oldest commissioned warship still afloat left its berth at the Charlestown Navy Yard on Wednesday morning. It glided through the harbor to mark 242 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The ship, nicknamed Old Ironsides, traveled to Fort Independence on Castle Island to fire a 21-gun salute. The ship's commander saluted the crowds gathered there. A Navy sailor on board recited the Declaration of Independence during the cruise.

## **A HISTORIC PARADE**

Crowds lined the streets in a Rhode Island town to see what's billed as the nation's oldest continuous Fourth of July celebration. Begun in 1785, the Bristol parade typically attracts about 100,000 people to the seaside town. This year's was a scorcher: Temperatures hovered near 90 degrees when the parade began

late Wednesday morning, and some marchers were treated for heat exhaustion and taken off the route.

## **DUELING CELEBRATIONS**

The country's longest-running live national July Fourth television tradition is PBS' broadcast of music and fireworks from the U.S. Capitol's West Lawn. But it's facing new counterprogramming this year from the White House, which is hosting its own concert and view of the National Park Service's fireworks show. PBS' "A Capitol Fourth" has the bigger stars, including The Beach Boys, Jimmy Buffett, Pentatonix, Chita Rivera, Luke Combs and The Temptations. It will be hosted by John Stamos.

The entertainers on the 90-minute White House event airing on the Hallmark Channel include singer-songwriter Sara Evans, pianist Lola Astanova and two former "American Idol" finalists. Both shows will include the fireworks display from the National Park Service. First lady Melania Trump said the White House show would allow Americans to "tune in from their

homes and be part of the festivities." PBS declined to comment.

## **LIGHTING UP THE NIGHT SKIES**

In New York, the Macy's fireworks show over the East River promises 25 minutes of sparkle and ahhhh plus the West Point Band and entertainers including Kelly Clarkson, Ricky Martin and Keith Urban on NBC's broadcast.

But some places in the American West have canceled their planned July Fourth fireworks because of high wildfire danger, and others are doing drone light displays instead of pyrotechnics. In Colorado, the wildfire danger forced some communities to cancel their fireworks. However, other shows will still go as planned in Denver, Colorado Springs and Fort Collins. The small mountain town of Silverton, in southwestern Colorado, called off the fireworks part of its annual Independence Day party, but the rest of Wednesday's celebration is still on, including live music a water fight with firefighters. Aspen will have a fire-proof drone

light display above town.

## **NEW AMERICANS, DIVIDED AMERICA**

This was the first Fourth of July that many people were able to call themselves U.S. citizens after participating in naturalization ceremonies across the country.

In New Hampshire, more than 100 people from 48 countries became U.S. citizens during a ceremony at the Strawberry Banke museum in Portsmouth as part of the museum's annual American Celebration. A ceremony also was held aboard the USS New Jersey, where dozens of people from countries including Vietnam and Bangladesh were sworn in.

The new citizens pledged allegiance to a country where some people lament that the ability to debate respectfully the toughest issues of the day seems hopelessly lost.

Several people were arrested Wednesday after hanging a banner from the Statue of Liberty's pedestal that called for abolishing U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Later, a protester climbed the statue's base, forcing the evacuation of Liberty Island, and stayed there for hours before police removed her.

## **LGBTQ PARADE PARTICIPANTS**

Utah LGBTQ groups marched for the first time in a prominent July Fourth festival in the conservative city of Provo after years of organizers blocking them from participating.

The groups were met by cheers and rainbow flags as they marched Wednesday morning in the America's Freedom Festival parade. Participants included a center for LGBTQ youth and an organization that works to bridge divides between the LGBTQ community and the Mormon church. The groups' parade application was initially denied this year by festival organizers who said participants cannot focus on political or social issues but should instead focus on patriotism. □

Associated Press





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## Defending champ Joey Chestnut sets record with 74 hot dogs

By REBECCA GIBIAN  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Joey “Jaws” Chestnut extended his reign as champion eater at the Nathan’s Famous July Fourth hot dog eating contest Wednesday, downing a record 74 wieners and buns in 10 minutes to take home the coveted Mustard Belt for the 11th time.

Miki Sudo held on to her title as the top women’s competitor at the annual Brooklyn eat-off, chomping 37 franks and buns to take home the top prize for an unprecedented fifth consecutive year.

Chestnut said he was “feeling good.”

“I found a vicious rhythm,” the 34-year-old Chestnut said after the stuffing session.

But while Chestnut ate 10 more dogs and buns than second-place finisher Carmen Cincotti, a judging error cast initial doubt over their totals after jurists didn’t see the eaters were taking the dogs and buns from two plates.

“Frankly, the judging was just off,” said George Shea, the longtime Coney Island announcer. “Joey said, ‘Look at my plates,’ and Carmen said, ‘Look at my plates.’ We counted the plates that they had eaten and it was 64 and 74.”

Eric Gonzalez, the Brooklyn district attorney, certified the final tally and Chestnut’s record of 74, two more than he consumed last year.

“At the end of the day, Joey Chestnut came in here and ate 74 hot dogs, broke a world record,”

said Cincotti, who celebrated his 26th birthday on Wednesday. “Apparently they were good dogs.”

A total of \$40,000 in prize money was up for grabs, with the first-place winners taking home \$10,000 each. Sudo fell short of the 41 hot dogs she consumed last year but easily beat out second-place finisher Mischelle Lesco, of Tucson, Arizona, who chomped down 28 wieners and buns. Thousands of attendees, many donning mustard-colored hot dog caps, braved 83-degree temperatures and a heat index of 91 degrees to witness the annual July Fourth competition on the Coney Island boardwalk. The outlandish tradition dates to 1972, though the company has long promoted what a former president acknowledged was a legendary start date of 1916.

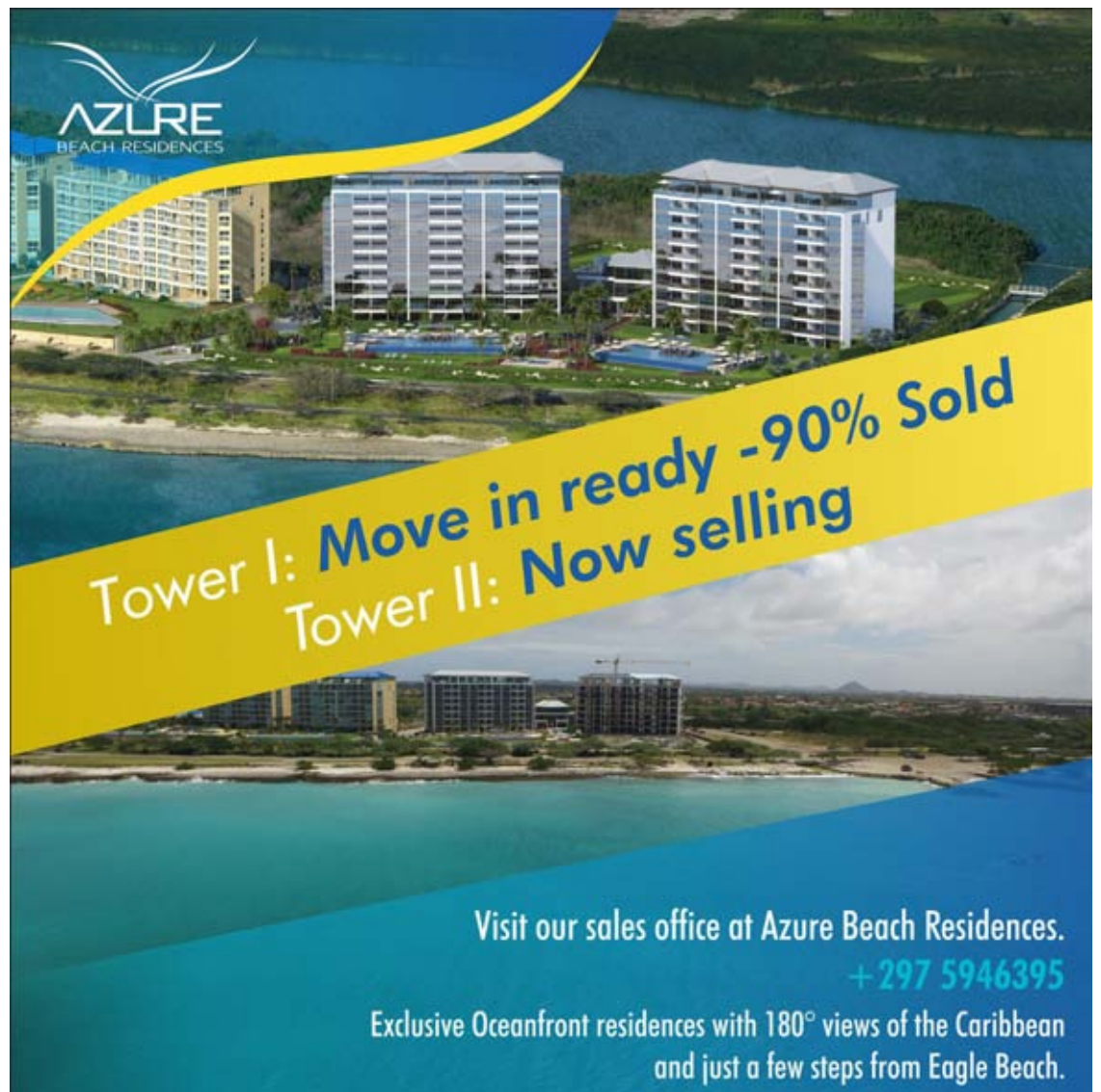
Fan Martha Pleasant, of Franklin, New Jersey, said she was attending the competitive eating competition to support her husband, Dwight Pleasant, who “loves wieners.”

“We are trying to knock something off my hubby’s bucket list,” she said. □



A judge counts the plates of hot dogs Joey Chestnut, left, at the end of the men’s competition of the Nathan’s Famous Fourth of July hot dog eating contest in the final seconds of the competition, Wednesday, July 4, 2018, in New York’s Coney Island. Chestnut broke his own world record by eating 74 hot dogs in 10 minutes.

Associated Press

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## Trump praises military for keeping U.S. 'safe, strong, proud'

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** —

President Donald Trump on Wednesday praised the U.S. military for keeping America "safe, strong, proud, mighty and free" and used the Independence Day holiday to thank them for being willing to put their lives on the line in defense of the nation.

"Two hundred and 42 years ago on July 4, 1776, America's founders adopted the Declaration of independence and changed the course of human history," said Trump, addressing hundreds of military families attending a holiday picnic from a balcony overlooking the lawn.

"But our freedom exists only because there are brave Americans willing to give their lives, to defend it and defend our great country," added Trump, who was accompanied by his wife, Melania.



**President Donald Trump, accompanied by first lady Melania Trump, waves as he greets military families during an afternoon picnic on the South Lawn of the White House, Wednesday, July 4, 2018, in Washington.**

"America's liberty has been earned through the blood, sweat and sacrifice of American patriots."

Trump left the White House for several hours on Wednesday morning

headed in the direction of the private golf club he owns in northern Virginia. He returned about an hour before he addressed the picnic.

A concert and viewing

of the fireworks near the Washington Monument is also on the lineup.

Trump was not expected on Wednesday to interview candidates for the Supreme Court, taking a

**Associated Press**

holiday respite from the intense process. He has spoken with seven candidates, according to the White House, and will announce his choice for a successor to retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy on Monday.

Before greeting guests on the lawn, Trump praised service members and their families as "truly unbelievable people."

"Thank you for keeping America safe, strong, proud, mighty and free," he said.

The White House invited some 1,500 military families to the picnic, according to the first lady's office, with 5,500 more invited for the fireworks.

Entertainers appearing at the 90-minute concert to be televised on the Hallmark Channel include singer-songwriter Sara Evans, pianist Lola Astanova and former "American Idol" finalists Jonny Brenns and Jax. □

## Black Oregon lawmaker: Police called as she knocked on doors



**In this Jan. 9, 2017 file photo, Rep. Teresa Alonso Leon and Rep. Janelle Bynum, right, high-five after members of the House of Representatives are sworn into office at the Oregon State Capitol in Salem, Ore.**

**Associated Press**

**CLACKAMAS, Ore. (AP)** — A black Oregon lawmaker

says one of her constituents called police as she

canvassed a Portland-area neighborhood that she represents.

State Rep. Janelle Bynum, who is running for re-election this fall, said she was knocking on doors, talking to residents and taking notes on her cellphone in Clackamas on Tuesday when a Clackamas County sheriff's deputy showed up. Bynum said the deputy told her a woman called police because the lawmaker appeared to spend a long time at homes and appeared to be casing the neighborhood while on her phone, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

The deputy asked if she was selling something, and she introduced herself as a

state legislator and told him she was canvassing, Bynum said. She said she only had campaign fliers, her cellphone and a pen on her. Bynum, 43, who won election to the state House in 2016, said she has knocked on thousands of doors and this was the first time someone reported her to police. "It boils down to people not knowing their neighbors and people having a sense of fear in their neighborhoods, which is kind of my job to help eradicate," Bynum told the newspaper. "But at the end of the day, it's important for people to feel like they can talk to each other to help minimize misunderstandings," she said.

The sheriff's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the incident. Bynum said the deputy was courteous and professional and later posed for a selfie with her. Bynum said that at her request, the deputy called the woman who reported her and they talked on the phone.

The lawmaker said the woman was apologetic and said she called 911 for the safety of her neighborhood. Bynum did not know the caller's race.

The lawmaker said she understood the woman's concerns but felt the woman could have tried talking to her first rather than calling police. □





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## Feds say ex-firm of Stormy Daniels' lawyer owes unpaid taxes

By **MICHAEL BALSAMO**  
Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — The Justice Department says Stormy Daniels' lawyer, Michael Avenatti, made "misrepresentations" in a bankruptcy case involving his former law firm that owes more than \$440,000 in unpaid federal taxes.

Avenatti's former firm, Eagan Avenatti LLP, had agreed in January to pay about \$2.4 million in back taxes and penalties as part of a resolution of a bankruptcy case involving the firm.

Court documents show some of the money was paid, but attorneys for the government said in May that the firm still owed a portion of the unpaid tax money.

On Tuesday, the U.S. attorney's office in Los Angeles filed a motion asking a federal judge to compel the payment of \$440,291 in unpaid taxes and more than \$11,700 in interest. Lawyers from the U.S. attorney's office represent the government in bankruptcy court when there's a debt to a government agency, like back taxes or unpaid student loans.

Avenatti, who has garnered national attention as the attorney for Daniels, the porn actress who is suing President Donald Trump following an alleged 2006 affair, said Wednesday that the court filing was "part of a smear campaign" and stressed that he doesn't personally owe any of the money.

"There is no question this is politically motivated," he said.

"I do not owe anything personally. And any representation to the contrary is completely false."

Lawyers for the government said they had attempted for months to contact Avenatti and his lawyer to settle the debt but were ignored. They allege Avenatti and his former firm "deliberately made no attempts to pay the delinquent amount."

Court documents say Avenatti is the "managing member and majority equity holder" of Eagan Avenatti and "solely owns and controls" another firm, Avenatti & Associates, which represents Daniels. "The debtor and its respon-



In this May 30, 2018, file photo, Michael Avenatti, attorney for porn actress Stormy Daniels, talks to the media after a Federal Court hearing, in New York.

Associated Press

sible officer Michael Avenatti have deliberately made no attempts to pay the delinquent amount which they previously agreed to do by stipulation," Assistant U.S. Attorney Najah Shariff wrote. Avenatti and his former firm "made misrepresentations to the detriment of the United States" that should not

be condoned by the court, Shariff said in the motion. U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Catherine Bauer set a hearing for July 25.

In May, Bauer ordered Eagan Avenatti, LLP to pay \$10 million to Jason Frank, a lawyer who claimed that the firm had misstated its profits and that he was owed millions. □

## 2 dead after tree branch falls on crowd at fireworks show

**ROCK ISLAND, ILL. (AP)** — Two people died and several others were injured after a branch measuring in parts more than 8 feet (2.5 meters) around fell on spectators during a fireworks display in western Illinois, authorities said. Rock Island County Sheriff Gerald Bustos said Wednesday that the branch fell from an oak tree that's believed to be about 100 years old. It fell about 25 feet (8 meters) during Tuesday night's "Red, White and Boom" event outside the court-

house in Rock Island. Dozens were sitting near the tree watching the fireworks when the branch fell, crushing some of the spectators. Some of those who weren't hurt tried to lift the branch to free the people trapped beneath. Bustos said Daniel Mendoza Sr., 61, of Rock Island was pronounced dead at the scene. Lawrence R. Anderson, 72, of Moline died at a hospital. Coroner Brian Gustafson said Wednesday the men died from "multiple traumatic crushing injuries."

Six other people were taken to a local hospital, including a 21-year-old pregnant woman from East Moline who was near term. Bustos said the woman gave birth, and she and her baby are reported to be in good health. The others were treated Tuesday night and released from the hospital. Two people from Maysville, Iowa, and their 2-year-old son suffered minor injuries, including scratches to the face. A 3-year-old boy from Bettendorf, Iowa, was treat-

ed for a suspected concussion, while a Moline woman also had a suspected concussion and scratches. Melanie Brown Ledbetter told KWQC-TV she was sitting about 50 feet (15 meters) from the tree with family and friends, watching the fireworks. "I was turned talking to my friend and heard the loud crackle of the tree breaking and saw it fall," she said. She said her husband was among those who tried to help people who were

hurt or trapped. "People were screaming and crying," Ledbetter said. "A lot of people rushed over to help and a lot of people immediately packed up and fled the scene." Bustos said his office is investigating, and he will provide an update Thursday afternoon. He said the county will inspect all the trees in the area. He noted the wind was blowing no more than 3 mph, not strong enough "where you would expect this to happen." □



# Growing wildfires in U.S. West mean more red on July 4

By KATHLEEN FOODY

Associated Press

**DENVER (AP)** — Large wildfires grew across the American West on Wednesday, keeping thousands of people out of their homes for the July 4 holiday and forcing some strict bans on fireworks to prevent new fires from igniting in the hot, dry region.

The National Interagency Fire Center on Wednesday reported more than 60 large, active blazes across the country, most in the drought-stricken West where holiday festivities could lead to increased fire danger.

The third-largest fire in recorded Colorado history kept expanding, chewing through 147 square miles (381 square kilometers) near Fort Garland, about 205 miles (330 kilometers) southwest of Denver.

The Spring Fire has destroyed more than 100 homes, and over 2,000 have been evacuated. Officials said preventing the flames from spreading toward the small mountain town of Cuchara is a priority.

Nearly 1,000 firefighters were working to gain control of the fire in unpredictable winds, but it was only slightly contained since sparking June 27.

"We're holding our own," Shane Greer, an incident commander with the



**Ty Warren leaves a pen where his father's cattle are being kept at the Huerfano County Fairgrounds where displaced people have brought their pets for safe keeping as the Spring Fire continues to burn Tuesday, July 3, 2018, in La Veta, Colo.**

Rocky Mountain Incident Management Team told residents. "There's some good firefighting going on out there."

Some fireworks displays were scheduled to go on in Denver and other large cities, but several mountain communities called off their holiday festivities to avoid any risk of flames.

In the southwestern mountain town of Silverton, a fireworks display was canceled in favor of live music and a parade. Aspen officials planned a fire-proof display using drone lights in place of fireworks.

Parts of Colorado and other Western states have been grappling with severe drought that's made wildfires explosive so far this season.

Utah authorities ordered more residents to evacuate as a blaze grew to about 62 square miles (160 square kilometers) near a popular fishing reservoir amid high wind gusts, steep terrain and dry conditions.

It wasn't clear how many more people were told to flee, but several hundred homes and cabins have been evacuated and the orders were extended to a

20-mile (32-kilometer) area dotted with trees and cabins.

The fire roughly two hours southeast of Salt Lake City has destroyed about 30 structures. Officials in Utah closed a portion of Strawberry Reservoir so planes could scoop water and drop it onto the flames, but people could still boat and fish on other parts of the water Wednesday.

A nearby RV campground tucked among cliffs and canyons was closed, leaving those hoping to visit for July 4 to find another spot. Darren Lewis and his ex-

tended family planned to spend the Fourth of July at a cabin built nearly 50 years ago by his father and uncle. Instead, Lewis and his family will spend the holiday nervously waiting to hear if a half-century of family memories go up in smoke.

"There's a lot of history and memories that go into this cabin," said Lewis, 44, of Magna, Utah. "The cabin we could rebuild, but the trees that we love would be gone. We're just hoping that the wind blows the other way."

Officials believe the fire was human-caused, but they are still investigating how it started Sunday.

In Northern California, officials reported some progress against a wildfire threatening hundreds of buildings but cautioned that wind and dry conditions could keep fueling the flames.

Officials said the fire that's scorched 129 square miles (334 square kilometers) in a rural area northwest of Sacramento was slightly more contained than the previous day. Weather could help Wednesday, which was expected to be the coolest day of the week, fire spokesman Israel Pinzon said. Temperatures were forecast to be 10 to 15 degrees lower than the triple digits that firefighters have faced. □

## Heavy rains bring street flooding to Houston on July 4th



**Cars drive through high water on the exit ramp to southbound 610 from eastbound Interstate-10 on Wednesday, July 4, 2018, in Houston.**

Associated Press

**HOUSTON (AP)** — Heavy rains that flooded some Houston streets on July Fourth have subsided.

Heavy rains bring street flooding to Houston on July 4th

**HOUSTON (AP)** — Heavy rains that flooded some Houston streets on July Fourth have subsided.

National Weather Service meteorologists say the city saw heavy rainfall early Wednesday that led to 1 to 2 feet (0.3 to 0.6 meters) of water collecting on some roads in west Houston. But the rain had mostly tapered off by afternoon.

Meteorologist Patrick Blood says the flooding was typical for Houston and wouldn't come close to the devastating floods caused last year by Hurricane Harvey. He says while more rain is expected in the coming days, it likely won't be as much.

The rains caused the city to call off its July Fourth concert and festival, but not its fireworks display. Heavy rains bring street flooding to Houston on July 4th

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ASHORE TO ASSIST ON HOLIDAY

## Protester scales Statue of Liberty's base, forces evacuation

By JENNIFER PELTZ and JAKE PEARSON

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A woman protesting U.S. immigration policy climbed the Statue of Liberty's base and forced the monument's evacuation on the Fourth of July hours after several other demonstrators had hung a banner on the statue's pedestal and had been arrested.

About 100 feet (30 meters) aboveground, the climber engaged in a four-hour standoff with police before two officers climbed up to the base and went over to her. With the dramatic scene unfolding on live television, she and the officers edged carefully around the rim of the statue's robes toward a ladder, and she climbed down about 25 feet (8 meters) to the monument's observation point and was taken into custody.

The woman had participated earlier in displaying a banner calling for abolishing the federal government's chief immigration enforcement agency, said Jay W. Walker, an organizer with Rise and Resist, which arranged the demonstration.

The group initially tweeted that the climber had "no connection" to the demonstration. Walker later said she was involved but others had no idea she would make the climb, which wasn't part of the planned protest. He said he didn't know her name.

"We don't know whether she had this planned before she ever got to Liberty Island or whether it was a spur-of-the-moment deci-

sion," Walker said.

Regardless, he said he felt the publicity would help the group's cause.

A spokesman for the National Park Service, which runs the monument, saw it differently.

"I feel really sorry for those visitors today" who had to leave or couldn't come, spokesman Jerry Willis said. "People have the right to speak out. I don't think they have the right to co-opt the Statue of Liberty to do it."

The climber ascended from the observation point, Willis said. Visitors were forced to leave Liberty Island hours before its normal 6:15 p.m. closing time, he said.

Earlier and farther below, at least six people were taken into custody after unfurling a banner that read "Abolish I.C.E.," referring to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, whose officers arrest and deport immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally, among other duties.

Willis said federal regulations prohibit hanging banners from the monument.

Rise and Resist opposes President Donald Trump's administration and advocates ending deportations and family separations at the U.S.-Mexico border.

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions has said the president's immigration policy is a step forward for public safety.

Under Trump's zero-tolerance policy, the government has begun requiring border agents to arrest and prosecute anyone caught entering the country illegally. That resulted in more than 2,000 children



In this image taken from video, people climb on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor Wednesday, July 4, 2018.

Associated Press

being separated from their parents within six weeks this spring.

Under public pressure, Trump later halted his policy of taking children from their detained parents. A federal judge in California ordered the Trump administration late last month to reunite the more than 2,000 children with their parents in 30 days.

"Abolish ICE" has become a rallying cry at protests around the country and for some Democratic officials seeking to boost their progressive credentials. But Trump said on Twitter last week that abolishing ICE will "never happen!"

The Statue of Liberty has long been a welcoming

symbol for immigrants and refugees coming to the U.S. It also has been a setting for protests and other activities that forced evacuations. Last February, someone hung a banner reading "Refugees Welcome" from the observation deck. The sign was taken down about an hour after being discovered.

A year earlier, a West Virginia man with psychological problems was sentenced to time served after calling in a bomb threat. The call forced the evacuation of Liberty Island, sending 3,200 people on boats back to lower Manhattan and New Jersey.

In 2000, 12 people protesting the Navy's use of the

Puerto Rican Island of Vieques for bombing exercises were arrested after a man climbed out on the spires of the statue's crown and attached flags and banners to it.

Puerto Rican nationalists occupied the statue for nine hours and draped its forehead with a Puerto Rican flag in 1977, demanding independence for the island. Police rounded up the protesters, arresting 30. The statue also was the scene of other takeovers in the 1970s by groups demanding such things as federal aid for Vietnam War veterans.

The statue, a gift from France, was dedicated in 1886. □

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## Poland's isolation deepens as Supreme Court law takes effect

By VANESSA GERA  
MONIKA SCISLOWSKA  
Associated Press  
WARSAW, Poland (AP) —

Poland's international isolation and political uncertainty at home deepened on Wednesday as a purge of the Supreme Court's justices took effect, with the chief justice defiantly refusing to step down.

First President Malgorzata Gersdorf arrived for work as usual at the court in Warsaw, vowing to continue her constitutionally mandated term, which runs through 2020. The court's judges support this view.

A large crowd of anti-government protesters cheered Gersdorf on and vowed to defend the constitutional order and fight what they see as the erosion of their democratic system.

Protesters gathered again at night in Warsaw and in another cities, with Lech Walesa, the legendary pro-democracy activist and Solidarity leader of the 1980s, addressing the cheering crowd in front of the Supreme Court building.

"He who breaks the constitution and the division of powers is a criminal, they are criminals," he said. "We must do everything to send these people away and vote to choose different people."

While Gersdorf was allowed in to the modern glass Supreme Court building in Warsaw and oversaw a meeting with other judges, it was not clear how she could continue in her role following a new law that lowers the mandatory retirement age to 65 from the



The president of Poland's Supreme Court, Malgorzata Gersdorf, arrives for work at the Supreme Court building in Warsaw, Poland, Wednesday, July 4, 2018.

previous 70.

Jaroslav Kaczynski, the ruling party leader, said in an interview published Wednesday by the Gazeta Polska daily that the judges' "action" will result in "shameful disaster" for them. An adviser to President Andrzej Duda insisted Gersdorf has no choice but to step down.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki faced a grilling in the European Parliament for what many European lawmakers see as Poland's violations of democratic standards with a broader overhaul of the judiciary that gives the ruling party vast political control over courts and judges. Manfred Weber, a German member of the conservative European People's Par-

ty group, hailed Poland's great democratic legacy, praising the 10 million Poles who joined Solidarity in the struggle against communism in the 1980s.

"Their great achievement — a sovereign, democratic Poland — is at stake today," Weber said.

He also mentioned the ruling party's transformation of state media into a propaganda tool and the prosecution of peaceful anti-government protesters, even as authorities have failed to act against nationalists who had attacked protesters.

Socialist leader Udo Bullmann praised Gersdorf for defending the Polish constitution, and criticized Morawiecki for dismantling "the last bastion of the judi-

ciary in Poland."

Guy Verhofstadt, president of an alliance of liberals, said that putting judges under political control was reminiscent of Soviet practices and that Poland should abandon its "illiberal" illusions.

"I ask you personally, really, to turn the wheel and bring Poland back into the family of democratic nations," Verhofstadt told Morawiecki. Morawiecki defended the changes the populist Law and Justice party has brought to the justice system, insisting his government is working to make judges more accountable to the democratic will of the people and that Poland's democracy "has never been as alive as it is today."

Though calm, he did not take the criticism well.

"We are a proud nation and we know the price of freedom," he said. "It is not good when proud nations are being lectured to by others, because that produces deadlocks."

Speaking later to reporters he insisted the forced retirements were "perfectly in line with the constitution."

In the debate, Morawiecki also got support from some who backed Warsaw's arguments that an overreaching EU was meddling in a sovereign state's internal affairs.

The new law is forcing approximately one-third of the court's 73 sitting judges to step down, unless they obtain special permission from the president to remain.

After having taken control of common courts and the constitutional court, Law and Justice now takes control of the top court, which handles appeals for all civil and criminal cases and authorizes election results. Protesters expressed fears the party will use its political sway over the court to falsify elections.

"We have the right to live in a free country with a constitution," said Monika Czerniakowska, 50. She said once a government violates the constitution, "anything can happen. Look what's happening in Hungary. How far can we go?"

On Wednesday, 63 justices were working, meaning that 10 of the 27 being forced into retirement have accepted their retirement under the new law, according to the court's press office. □





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# 60 migrants refused by Italy and Malta arrive in Barcelona

By RENATA BRITO  
ARITZ PARRA

Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) —

A rescue ship carrying 60 migrants arrived Wednesday in a Spanish port after being refused entry by Italy and Malta, the second time in a month that a humanitarian group has been forced to travel for days to unload people rescued in the central Mediterranean. The Italian government is blocking private rescue boats that it blames for encouraging human traffickers to launch unseaworthy boats loaded with migrants toward Europe.

But the aid groups deny having any link to smugglers in Libya or elsewhere, and say they are being forced to leave unattended the busy migrant sea transit route where deaths are mounting while they make the long journey to



In this photo taken on Monday, July 2, 2018, migrant women look at a crew's computer aboard the Open Arms aid boat, of Proactiva Open Arms Spanish NGO.

Associated Press

Spain.

The Open Arms rescue ship completed a four-day journey to Barcelona, in northeastern Spain, after it saved 60 people Saturday from a rubber boat floating in waters north of Libya. The migrants come from

14 different countries and include five women, a 9-year-old boy and four older teenagers, some of them unaccompanied. The Spanish aid group Proactiva Open Arms said they were generally in good health but some may

have fuel burns.

The group's founder, Oscar Camps, refused to celebrate bringing the rescued migrants to port. He said he was angry about being turned away by European Union countries and having to leave behind other migrants who reportedly drowned.

"We haven't saved 60 people," he said. "We have let 340 people die."

The migrants were going through health checks and identification procedures. Authorities granted them a 30-day permit to apply for residence or asylum in the European Union. Many have relatives in Germany, Belgium or France.

According to the International Organization for

Migration, more than 500 people have died trying to cross from Libya since the Aquarius, another charity rescue ship, was blocked from ports in Italy and Malta in early June. Its 630 migrants were finally taken in by Spain and France.

Doctors Without Borders blamed the deaths on the European Union's inaction. "The EU is abdicating their responsibilities to save lives, blocking search and rescue and condemning people to be trapped in Libya," the group said in a tweet Wednesday. "Any deaths caused by this are now at their hands."

In all, IOM says 1,405 people have died in the dangerous Mediterranean Sea crossing this year. □

## Turkey's election board confirms Erdogan win

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) —

Turkey's highest electoral body on Wednesday certified the results of last month's parliamentary and presidential elections, paving the way for President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to continue his 15-year rule with expanded powers.

The Supreme Electoral Council confirmed Erdogan's victory in the June 24 presidential race, declaring that he won 52.59 percent of the votes. His closest rival, Muharrem Ince of the main opposition Republican People's Party, or CHP, gained 30.64 percent, while the imprisoned, pro-Kurdish candidate, Selahattin Demirtas, garnered 8.40 percent, the council confirmed.



Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Prime Minister Binali Yildirim, carry the coffin of historian Fuat Sezgin after funeral prayers in Istanbul, Sunday, July 1, 2018.

Associated Press

According to the official result, Erdogan's conservative Justice and Development Party won 42.56 percent of the votes in the ballot. Erdogan, who is scheduled to be sworn into his new, five-year term on Monday, is set to rule with

substantially expanded powers, in line with constitutional changes that were approved in a referendum last year. Erdogan's party retains control of the parliament due to its alliance with Turkey's main nationalist party. □

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# Another mystery illness rocks England after spy's poisoning

By **MATT DUNHAM**

**JILL LAWLESS**

**Associated Press**

**AMESBURY, England (AP)**

— Four months after a quiet corner of England was plunged into a Cold War-style saga of spies, chemical weapons and international tensions, residents wondered Wednesday whether it was happening all over again.

Counterterrorism detectives and local police were investigating after a couple in their 40s fell critically ill from exposure to an unknown substance a few miles from where a former Russian spy and his daughter were poisoned with a nerve agent in March.

Scientists were working to identify the substance amid speculation the victims could have been sickened by residue from the poison that nearly killed Sergei and Yulia Skripal.

Wiltshire Police declared the case a "major incident" Wednesday, four days after the man and woman were found collapsed at a residential building in Amesbury, eight miles (13 kilometers) from Salisbury, where the Skripals were poisoned. A major incident designation allows British authorities to mobilize more than one emergency agency.

Residents felt a grim sense of déjà vu.

"With the Russian attack happening not long ago, we just assumed the worst," said student Chloe Edwards, who said police and fire engines descended on a quiet street of newly built homes in Amesbury on Saturday evening.

Edwards said she saw people in green suits — like those worn by forensics officers — and her family was told to stay indoors for several hours.

Police said officers were initially called Saturday morning about a collapsed woman, then were summoned back in the evening after a man fell ill at the same property. Police at first thought the couple, identified by friends as 44-year-old Dawn Sturgess and Charlie Rowley, 45, had taken a contaminated



**A British police officer guards a cordon outside the Queen Elizabeth Gardens park in Salisbury, England, Wednesday, July 4, 2018. Associated Press**

batch of heroin or crack.

"However, further testing is now ongoing to establish the substance which led to these patients becoming ill," said Deputy Chief Constable Paul Mills. "At this stage it is not yet clear if a crime has been committed."

London's Metropolitan Police said that "given the recent events in Salisbury," counterterrorism officers were working with local police on the investigation. British media reported that samples of the mystery substance had been sent to the Porton Down defense research laboratory for testing.

Prime Minister Theresa May's office said she was being kept updated on the case, "which understandably is being treated with the utmost seriousness."

The emergency services' response echoes that in the case of Sergei Skripal, 67. The former Russian intelligence officer was convicted of spying for Britain before coming to the U.K. as part of a 2010 prisoner swap.

He had been living in Salisbury, a cathedral city 90

miles (145 kilometers) southwest of London, when he was struck down along with his 33-year-old daughter Yulia, who was visiting him. The Skripals' illness initially baffled doctors after they were found unconscious on a park bench in Salisbury. Scientists at Porton Down concluded they had been poisoned with Novichok, a type of nerve agent developed by the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

After spending weeks in critical condition, the Skripals were released from the hospital and taken to an undisclosed location for their protection. Doctors say they don't know what the long-term prognosis is. Britain accuses Russia of poisoning the Skripals, a claim Moscow strongly denies. The case sparked a diplomatic crisis between Russia and the West, including the expulsion of hundreds of diplomats from both sides.

The two Amesbury victims were at Salisbury District Hospital, which also treated the Skripals. Police said the victims are British citizens and live in the area.

Neighbors on Muggleton

Road in Amesbury, where Rowley is believed to live, said they did not know the couple well and didn't know what they did for a living. Most residents have only recently moved to the new houses and apartments. Sam Hobson, a friend of the couple, said he was with them on Saturday, when Sturgess fell ill first. He told Sky News she was "having a fit, foam coming out of her mouth." Rowley collapsed later the same day. "He was sweating loads, dribbling. ... He was rocking backwards and forwards," Hobson said. "There was no response from him. He didn't even know I was there."

Police cordoned off a home in Amesbury, believed to be Rowley's, and other places the pair visited, including a church, a pharmacy and a park in Salisbury, near where the Skripals were found.

Health officials said there appears to be no wider threat to the public, but they are watching the situation.

Salisbury and surrounding towns have only recently begun to recover from the

frightening weeks at the center of an international spy drama.

Police from 40 departments in England and Wales returned home in June after months working on the Skripal case, and specially trained workers have spent months decontaminating sites around the city.

The British government has pledged 2.5 million pounds (\$3.3 million) to local businesses to make up for lost revenue in the area, which is a gateway to Stonehenge, the ancient stone circle that is a huge tourist destination.

"Amesbury's a lovely place — it's very quiet, uneventful," said resident Rosemary Northing. "So for this to happen, and the media response and the uncertainty, it's unsettling."

Justin Doughty, who lives across the street from the cordoned-off house, said residents want more information from the authorities. "We don't know, to be honest now, because is it linked to Salisbury or is it drug-related?" he said. "None of us is being told anything by the police, and it would be nice to know something." □



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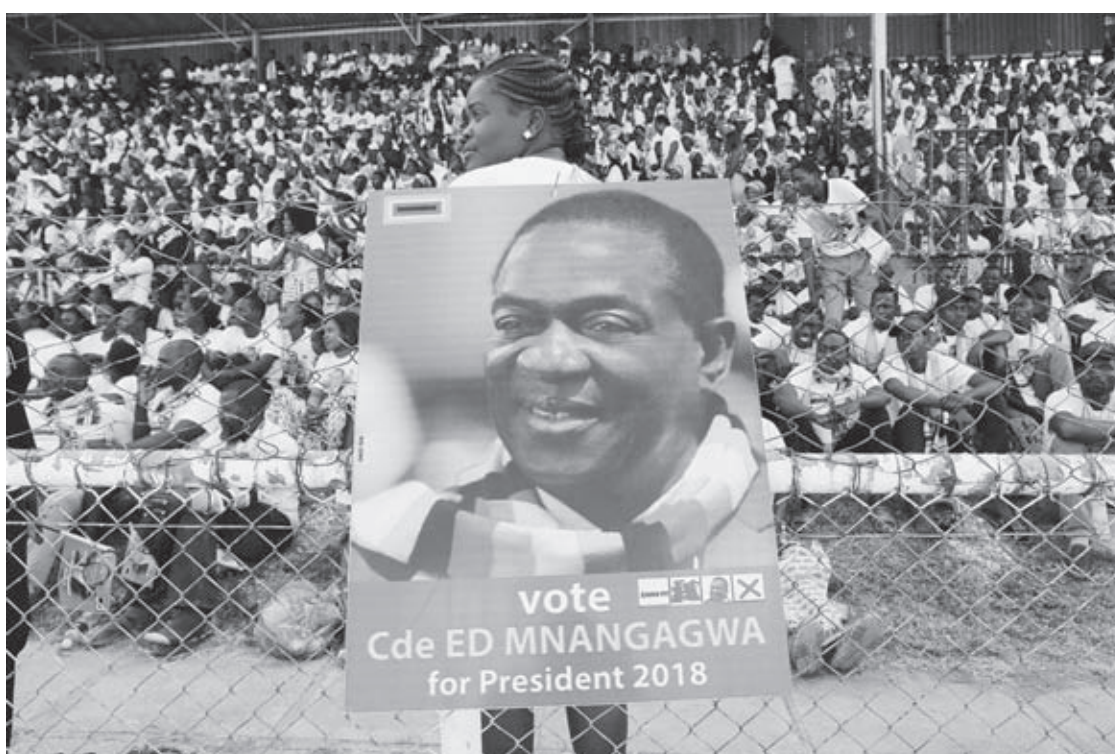
## After Mugabe, how free and fair will Zimbabwe's vote be?

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA  
Associated Press

**JOHANNESBURG (AP)** — It will be a first for Zimbabwe's voters: The name of Robert Mugabe won't be on the ballot when elections are held on July 30. But the military-backed system that kept the former leader in power for decades, and then pushed him out, is still in control.

That is the conundrum facing a southern African country anxious to shed its image as an international pariah, and to draw the foreign aid and investment needed for an economic revival. The government promises a free and fair vote and the military, whose 2017 takeover led to Mugabe's resignation, says it won't stray from the barracks. Some Zimbabweans, though, wonder how much things have really changed.

They ask whether a political establishment accused of vote-rigging and state-sponsored violence over a generation would accept an election outcome — that is, an opposition victory — that might damage its interests or even expose it to prosecution for alleged human rights abuses. The military's economic interests include the alleged involvement of security forces in Zimbabwe's diamond-mining sector, which Mugabe himself once said had been plundered of billions of dollars in revenue. Then there is the uneasy legacy of the military's November takeover. It sent euphoric Zimbabweans



In this June 27, 2018 file photo supporters of Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa, attend an elections rally in Hwange, Zimbabwe.

into the streets to celebrate and was later described as a coup by Mugabe, who quit as impeachment proceedings loomed in parliament. The military intervention was mostly peaceful and tacitly supported by other countries, but critics compared it to letting a genie out of the bottle: Once the military steps brazenly into politics, why wouldn't it do so again?

"Do you believe that people would risk their lives to carry out a coup, only to hand over power six months later to some unknown person?" Dewa Mavhinga, regional director for Human Rights Watch, asked at a recent forum on Zimbabwe in Johannesburg.

In this scenario, the "unknown person" would be Nelson Chamisa, the new

leader of the MDC opposition party whose members were brutalized by ruling ZANU-PF party supporters during violent, fraud-tainted elections in 2008.

The establishment's man is President Emmerson Mnangagwa, a former vice president and Mugabe ally who rewarded the military's support with key Cabinet positions for former generals. Mnangagwa, who survived a deadly grenade attack at a campaign rally on June 23, says this election won't be like those under the 94-year-old Mugabe, who had led Zimbabwe since independence from white minority rule in 1980. Some things are very different. A record 23 presidential candidates and 128 political parties will participate; there are more than five

million registered voters. Western monitors, banned during the Mugabe era, are invited; concerned about military involvement, some are urging senior officers to pledge loyalty now to the election winner, regardless of who it is.

The opposition has held rallies without interference from a police force once quick to break up gatherings of government opponents. But the idea of accountability for past crimes by suspected state agents has no traction under Mnangagwa, himself linked to the killings of thousands of people in the Matabeleland opposition area in the 1980s. And on Monday, the MDC's chief election agent, Jameson Timba, said the state election commission had failed

to provide an accurate voters' roll and was trying to manipulate the vote.

"We are sure Zimbabweans will not be railroaded into a sham election," Timba said. Zimbabweans don't need to worry about the military, said Vice President Constantino Chiwenga, who was military commander in November when soldiers and tanks deployed in Harare, the capital. The military intervened to back a ruling party faction loyal to Mnangagwa, who had been fired as Mugabe's deputy, in a feud with a group associated with Mugabe's politically ambitious wife, Grace.

"There will not be a recurrence, let me assure you," Chiwenga said last week, according to Zimbabwe's NewsDay newspaper. "We had created a situation which was bad for ourselves and that will not happen again."

The military on Wednesday told reporters it will not interfere in the election but will help police with law and order and assist the election commission with transport logistics, which could prove contentious with the opposition.

Spokesman Overson Mugwisi also denied reports that the military has deployed thousands of soldiers to rural areas to campaign for the ruling party, calling them "falsehoods."

For many Zimbabweans, the grenade attack on Mnangagwa's campaign rally in Bulawayo last month highlights the country's political tensions. □



# Trump pressed aides on Venezuela invasion, US official says

By JOSHUA GOODMAN  
Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — As a meeting last August in the Oval Office to discuss sanctions on Venezuela was concluding, President Donald Trump turned to his top aides and asked an unsettling question: With a fast unraveling Venezuela threatening regional security, why can't the U.S. just simply invade the troubled country?

The suggestion stunned those present at the meeting, including U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and national security adviser H.R. McMaster, both of whom have since left the administration. This account of the previously undisclosed conversation comes from a senior administration official familiar with what was said.

In an exchange that lasted around five minutes, McMaster and others took turns explaining to Trump how military action could backfire and risk losing hard-won support among Latin American governments to punish President Nicolas Maduro for taking Venezuela down the path of dictatorship, according to the official. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the discussions.

But Trump pushed back. Although he gave no indication he was about to order up military plans, he pointed to what he considered past cases of successful gunboat diplomacy in the region, according to the official, like the invasions of Panama and Grenada in the 1980s.

The idea, despite his aides' best attempts to shoot it down, would nonetheless persist in the president's head.

The next day, Aug. 11, Trump alarmed friends and foes alike with talk of a "military option" to remove Maduro from power. The public remarks were initially dismissed in U.S. policy circles as the sort of martial bluster people have come to expect from the reality TV star turned commander



In this May 22, 2018, file photo, Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro holds up the National Electoral Council certificate declaring him the winner during ceremony at CNE headquarters in Caracas, Venezuela.

Associated Press

in chief.

But shortly afterward, he raised the issue with Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, according to the U.S. official. Two high-ranking Colombian officials who spoke on condition of anonymity to avoid antagonizing Trump confirmed the report.

Then in September, on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly, Trump discussed it again, this time at greater length, in a private dinner with leaders from four Latin American allies that included Santos, the same three people said and Politico reported in February.

The U.S. official said Trump was specifically briefed not to raise the issue and told it wouldn't play well, but the first thing the president said at the dinner was, "My staff told me not to say this." Trump then went around asking each leader if they were sure they didn't want a military solution, according to the official, who added that each leader told Trump in clear terms they were sure.

Eventually, McMaster would pull aside the president and walk him through the dangers of an invasion, the official said.

Taken together, the behind-the-scenes talks, the extent and details of which have not been previously

reported, highlight how Venezuela's political and economic crisis has received top attention under Trump in a way that was unimaginable in the Obama administration. But critics say it also underscores how his "America First" foreign policy at times can seem outright reckless, providing ammunition to America's adversaries.

The White House declined to comment on the private conversations. But a National Security Council spokesman reiterated that the U.S. will consider all options at its disposal to help restore Venezuela's democracy and bring stability. Under Trump's leadership, the U.S., Canada and European Union have levied sanctions on dozens of top Venezuelan officials, including Maduro himself, over allegations of corruption, drug trafficking and human rights abuses. The U.S. has also distributed more than \$30 million to help Venezuela's neighbors absorb an influx of more than 1 million migrants who have fled the country.

For Maduro, who has long claimed that the U.S. has military designs on Venezuela and its vast oil reserves, Trump's bellicose talk provided the unpopular leader with an immediate if short-lived boost as he was

trying to escape blame for widespread food shortages and hyperinflation. Within days of the president's talk of a military option, Maduro filled the streets of Caracas with loyalists to condemn "Emperor" Trump's belligerence, ordered up nationwide military exercises and threatened with arrest opponents he said were plotting his overthrow with the U.S.

"Mind your own business and solve your own problems, Mr. Trump!" thundered Nicolas Maduro, the president's son, at the government-stacked constituent assembly. "If Venezuela were attacked, the rifles will arrive in New York, Mr. Trump," the younger Maduro said. "We will take the White House."

Even some of the staunchest U.S. allies were begrudgingly forced to side with Maduro in condemning Trump's saber rattling. Santos, a big backer of U.S. attempts to isolate Maduro, said an invasion would have zero support in the region. The Mercosur trade bloc, which includes Brazil and Argentina, issued a statement saying "the only acceptable means of promoting democracy are dialogue and diplomacy" and repudiating "any option that implies the use of force."

But among Venezuela's beleaguered opposition movement, hostility to the idea of a military intervention has slowly eased.

A few weeks after Trump's public comments, Harvard economics professor Ricardo Hausmann, a former Venezuelan planning minister, wrote a syndicated column titled "D Day Venezuela," in which he called for a "coalition of the willing" made up of regional powers and the U.S. to step in and support militarily a government appointed by the opposition-led national assembly.

Mark Feierstein, who oversaw Latin America on the National Security Council during the Obama administration, said that strident U.S. action on Venezuela, however commendable, won't loosen Maduro's grip on power if it's not accompanied by pressure from the streets. However, he thinks Venezuelans have largely been demoralized after a crackdown on protests last year triggered dozens of deaths, and the threat of more repression has forced dozens of opposition leaders into exile.

"People inside and outside the administration know they can ignore plenty of what Trump says," Feierstein, who is now a senior adviser at the Albright Stonebridge Group, said of Trump's talk of military invasion of Venezuela. "The concern is that it raised expectations among Venezuelans, many of whom are waiting for an external actor to save them." □





## LOCAL



## “Conta Cuenta” project reaches its closure



**ORANJESTAD —** Biblioteca Nacional Aruba which is our National Library recently closed its “Conta Cuenta Na Casnan Di Nos Grandinan” project, which translates to “Storytelling At Our Eldery Care Homes”. This time the tour was with Author Marco Christiaans and Actresses Emerita Emerencia & Faritah Luidens.

Emerita Emerencia entertained the public with a puppet-show, Faritah Luidens presented a sketch in the role of ‘Tica Basha Bou’, about how our people used to live in the past and sang a couple of

songs from our past. Marco Christiaans told a story about Swordsmanship and a story about how the district Noord used to be in the past.

Biblioteca Nacional Aruba organizes this program every year. During 3 months Author, Poets and storytellers go on tour together, to different elderly care homes to present a hour long program filled with storytelling, poetry, theater play, music and entertainment.

In the second part of the program a souvenir is given in the form of a sketch,

about past customs in Aruba, this sketch is given by a couple of the libraries own employees with the musical help of Mr. Patrick Christiaans together with Ms. Setty Yarzagaray who offered her help as volunteer.

At the end they celebrated the projects closure by celebrating St. Johns Day better known here as Fiesta di San Juan, or Dera Gay. The group went to perform at various elderly care homes among them Paviljoen San Pedro, Huize Maris Stella Savaneta, SABA San Nicolas and Cas Marie Savaneta.



The coordination of the “Conta Cuenta Na Casnan Di Anciano” project is in the hands of librarians and Quota Club Aruba which contributes financially to cover some of the costs.

A big thank you from the bottom of the heart goes out to all who in some way contributed or helped this project become a success. We are a knowledge and information centre where everyone on Aruba, no matter the age, language or cultural origin is

welcome. Our library is an energetic center filled with information, education, culture and recreation.

Biblioteca Nacional Aruba organizes interesting workshops. A yearly Bookfestival for the kids is their greatest activity motivating the children to read more. And also the famous “Película den Aire Liber” which is a movie night in the open air where young and old is welcome to enjoy a nice movie together under the stars. □





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## Aruba to Me



ORANJESTAD – Aruba Today likes to welcome readers to participate in our newspaper. You can see that in our Honored Guest-publications, specials like on Valentine's Day and on other occasions. Throughout the year you are always welcome to send us your vacation picture(s) together with completing the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... (Email: [Linda.Reijnders@cspnv.com](mailto:Linda.Reijnders@cspnv.com))

For today's newspaper we received a great picture from Brian Burns and family from New Jersey. He wrote: Aruba to Me (Us) is.... Joy! We enjoy Aruba every year around this time. We go fishing with J-string and always catch a fish! ☐

## Offering flights to and from the Dominican Republic: Aruba Airport festively welcomed Air Century to Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) festively welcomed the Dominican carrier "Air Century" to Aruba on July 3, 2018. Air Century is a Dominican airline, founded in 1992 by the current CEO and President, pilot captain Omar Chahin Lama; with current base of operations in the International Airport Dr. Joaquín Balaguer (JBQ), the Higüero in the city of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

In the beginning Air Century offered services of excursions and aerial advertising. As the fleet of aircraft grew and diversified, the airline began operating charter flights, with corporate aviation services and crew transfers, with a 90% market share in the Caribbean region. Subsequently, the airline developed regular domestic routes such as Santo Domingo to Punta Cana, Barahona, Santiago and Puerto Plata. Air Century offers its customers an air transport with high standards of quality, ensuring safe operations, with aircraft that meet the needs of the market.



The flights to Aruba will be performed on board Saab 340 aircraft. The planned schedule contains flights to Aruba on Tuesdays and Sundays, whilst flights to the Dominican Republic will be available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays. AAA Chief Commercial Officer, Mrs. Barbara Brown was happy to welcome the Dominican carrier: "With this new flight offered by Air Century, we can offer our passengers more quality flying options to and from the Dominican Republic

and beyond other destinations in the Caribbean region. We look forward to a long lasting relationship that will hopefully develop into more frequencies in the future."

Air Century offers charter flights and other services through the Dominican Republic, the Caribbean, South America, and North America. Tickets can be purchased at [www.aircentury.com](http://www.aircentury.com) or at the travel agency of your choice. ☐





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## Burger Mania at Salt & Pepper Restaurant : you are invited to go tall, taller or tallest

PALMBEACH — Salt & Pepper Restaurant in the Arawak Garden is ready for its lunch special XXL Burger Mania. A Double Bacon Cheeseburger with bacon, cheese, lettuce, onions, tomatoes, pickles and fries, is the starting point. From there guests are invited to build and build some more, going as tall as possible according to their taste.

Picture crisp bread, fresh vegetables and a juicy, juicy, XXL burger and we are sure your mouth starts watering. How tall will you go? And, more importantly, what are you waiting for? Bon appetit! Check out the Burger Mania at Salt & pepper on FB & Instagram: #saltandpepperaruba.

Salt and Pepper Restaurant is one of the fabulous places of the Garden, located across from the Barceló Resort on the hi-rise strip. Open from breakfast time to late in the evening, with a wonderful, cozy bar, the restaurant is always filled with happy guests. Tapas are what Salt and Pepper specializes in, but there is a full menu available as well. □







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## Asi Es Mi Peru restaurant launches Chef Table 5 Course Menu: “It feels like having dinner at home in Peru”

**EAGLEBEACH** — Peruvian-born Roxanna Salinas is the proud owner of a restaurant that without doubt serves the purest Peruvian specialties in Aruba: Asi Es Mi Peru at Paradise Beach Villas. She herself welcomes you in ‘her home’ as that is how the restaurant is described by Peruvian foodies: Food like home, for sure the best compliment a restaurant can get. “Everything here is 100 % Peruvian, we are authentic and ethnic.” Peru by the way is considered to be the single most important cuisine in Latin America with a repertoire of dishes that might even beat France. Many big-name chefs travel to the country to get inspired. **How It All Started**

“Many years ago during a Christmas gathering with family my mom told me why I did not open a Peruvian restaurant in Aruba. She said: who does not love Peruvian food?” That was the trigger for the start because Roxanne loves cooking, it is in her genes. Her mom and grandmother were great cooks. “My base principle was to do everything original and authentic. When guests come to this restaurant I want to serve them the food as if you were dining the best dishes in a house in Peru. The taste is equal, nothing is fused or changed. Many Peruvians that come here say: I feel like I am having dinner at home. It is very difficult to please Peruvians as naturally they know best what is authentic.” To find her Chef



and Sous Chef she went to Peru where she interviewed 190 applicants. “We had more than 400 people that applied, after a screening that my brother and I did, we were left with 190 and out of them 10 cooked for me. I gave them a basket with ingredients and a certain plate they had to cook. Based on that I chose the Chef and Sous Chef.” Chef Table 5 Course Menu Peruvian food is remark-

able for the diversity of its ingredients. It might be best known for its ceviche, the marinated seafood dish, but bestsellers are also Lomo Saltado (stir fry strips sirloin), seafood rice and Pescado a lo Macho (fish of the day). Roxanne explains that recently the Chef launched a 5-course Chef Table Menu. “Now that we have standardized our typical Peruvian cuisine, we are ready to take it

to the next level. Our Chef is very knowledgeable and we bring higher cuisine to the table.” Of the 5 courses the first is the Tiradito Tres Regiones, and the 2nd the Majao de Yuca con Pargo Escabechado paired with a wonderful Santiago Ruiz Albarino; The 3rd plate is a Cremosa de Quinoa con Aji Relleno paired with a Hahn Pinot Noir, the 4th the Lomo con Salsa de Hongos Andinos paired with a Mer-

lot Santa Margarita, and the 5th a Crocante de Maracuya. Try this wonderful culinary experience! Roxanne explains that the Peruvian food is influenced by different cultures. “A lot of people came from China to work in the sugar plantations, Japanese came to work in the rice fields and African immigrants brought their influences as well... that’s why you see a fusion in the dishes. The typical food and plates from Peru mixed with these influences make up for an excellent cuisine. Our sushi for example is totally different than the standard sushi and we have so many pastas that are outside of Italian pastas. The variety of corn, more than 500 variety of potatoes... I can go on and on.” I guess you will need to try it for yourself as Roxanne’s place is unique. Asi Es Mi Peru is open every day from 12 noon - 10:30 pm. They are closed on Monday evening. Have a peak on their website <https://www.asiesmiperuenaruba.com/> or Facebook [asies mi peru](https://www.facebook.com/asiesmiperu). □





# SPORTS



In this Dec. 5, 2017, file photo, Clemson co-offensive coordinator Tony Elliott attends a reception in Little Rock, Ark., ahead of his being announced as the winner of this year's Broyles Award, given to the top assistant coach in college football.

Associated Press

## NCAA prepares minority coordinators for head coaching jobs

By STEPHEN WHYNO  
AP Sports Writer

OXON HILL, Md. (AP) — Camera lighting made beads of sweat emerge from Tony Elliott's forehead as he fielded questions ranging from football philosophy to something he could share about his private life. The Clemson co-offensive coordinator paused, smiled and couldn't hide his joy about riding an all-terrain vehicle through the woods. The walls broke down as Elliott made a human connection with mock interviewer Jon Oliver in the best possible preparation he can get for a head coaching job. Despite helping the Tigers win a national title, Elliott has never interviewed for a head coaching job. "Two phone calls," Elliott said.

Continued on Page 33



26 sets in a row at Wimbledon for Federer

Switzerland's Roger Federer returns the ball to Slovakia's Lukas Lacko during their men's singles match, on the third day of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Wednesday July 4, 2018.

Associated Press  
Page 19



## NFL confirms Edelman must serve 4-game suspension

**By The Associated Press**

New England Patriots wide receiver Julian Edelman will miss the first four games of the 2018 season for violating NFL policy on performance-enhancing substances. NFL officials confirmed Tuesday that Edelman would be suspended without pay for the Patriots' first four regular-season games. ESPN had reported last month that Edelman was facing a four-game suspension. Edelman, 32, missed the 2017 season with a torn right anterior cruciate ligament. He had 98 receptions in 2016, the third time in a four-year stretch that he caught over 90 passes.

Edelman will miss a home game against Houston, trips to Jacksonville and Detroit, plus a home game against Miami.

He will be eligible to return to the Patriots' active roster on Oct. 1, enabling him to make his 2018 debut Oct. 4 against Indianapolis. □

## James DeGale vacates IBF super middleweight title

**LONDON (AP)** — James DeGale announced Wednesday that he has vacated his IBF super middleweight title. "I have relinquished my IBF title as I look to secure big fights in the final chapter of my career," the 32-year-old DeGale wrote on Twitter.

"This is the final phase of my career where I want to be involved in the biggest fights possible. My team have been working very hard behind the scenes and we've got some exciting news to announce soon."

DeGale became the first British Olympic gold medalist to win a professional world title when in 2015 he outpointed Andre Dirrell in Boston.

He has since defended it largely on American soil, including drawing a unification fight with Badou Jack and reclaiming his title following an unexpected defeat by Caleb Truax in London, but is expected to conclude his career in Britain. □

## Carolina signs D de Haan to 4-year, \$18.2M deal

**RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)** — The Carolina Hurricanes have signed free-agent defenseman Calvin de Haan to a four-year contract.

General manager Don Waddell said Tuesday night that the deal is worth a total of \$18.2 million.

De Haan had a goal and 11 assists in 33 games with the New York Islanders last season but missed the final 49 games with a shoulder injury. A year earlier, he set career highs with 25 points, five goals and 20 assists while playing all 82 games.

The 27-year-old was a first-round draft pick in 2009 and is the second notable defensive acquisition this offseason for Carolina, which picked up defenseman Dougie Hamilton in a five-player trade with Calgary. Waddell calls de Haan "a strong two-day player" who "will help solidify the left side and upgrade our defense." □



In this June 17, 2018 file photo Xander Schauffele plays his shot from the fourth tee during the final round of the U.S. Open Golf Championship in Southampton, N.Y.

Associated Press

## Xander Schauffele looks for repeat win in West Virginia

**By JOHN RABY  
AP Sports Writer**

Decisions by most of the world's elite golfers to skip the PGA Tour's stop in West Virginia have been a boost for younger players like Xander Schauffele.

Schauffele had a one-stroke victory over Robert Streb at The Greenbrier resort last season, which ended with the 24-year-old from San Diego winning the Tour Championship and earning Rookie of the Year honors.

This year, nearly all of the two dozen rookies on the tour are in the field at A Military Tribute at The Greenbrier, which starts Thursday on the Old White TPC in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia.

Chances are good that one or more of them could be near the top of the leaderboard. Four of the tournament's seven champions have been first-time winners, including three rookies.

Schauffele likes his chances, too.

He is part of the successful high school class of 2011 that includes Jordan Spieth, Justin Thomas and Daniel Berger. Schauffele pointed out that Spieth won the John Deere Classic in 2013 and 2015, Thomas won in

Malaysia in 2015 and 2016, and Berger at the St. Jude Classic in 2016 and 2017.

"I feel like I want to join that group," Schauffele said Wednesday.

But Schauffele has missed the cut in three of his last four tournaments after finishing tied for second at The Players Championship. At No. 24 in the world, he's among five players ranked in the top 30 at The Greenbrier. The others are Bubba Watson (No. 13), Phil Mickelson (No. 20), Webb Simpson (No. 21) and Brian Harman (No. 26). Five from the top 15 in the FedEx Cup are competing.

Watson, a three-time winner this season, and Mickelson own vacation homes at The Greenbrier Sporting Club. The Greenbrier Classic, typically held around Independence Day, was renamed last month in honor of the nation's active and past members of the military, who are being given free admission.

"It would be a huge accomplishment to win here in front of my home crowd," Watson said. "What a dream that would be, my dad was in the military so now we've got the name of the tournament. It just would mean a lot for my family to honor my late

dad."

It's the first tournament for Mickelson since the U.S. Open, when he intentionally violated golf rules by hitting a moving ball on the 13th green in the third round. He later apologized, saying his anger and frustration got the best of him. The West Virginia stop could see a change when the PGA Tour reveals its full schedule this month for the next FedEx Cup season. The tournament at Sam Snead's former playground in White Sulphur Springs is under contract through 2021.

Watson, for one, wouldn't mind seeing a schedule change. From a business standpoint, he said the Fourth of July holiday always is a hectic time at The Greenbrier, so moving the tournament to later in the year, especially with the area's spectacular fall foliage on display, would give the resort yet another busy week.

"I've always thought that the fall would be great," he said.

Up for grabs this week are four spots in the British Open at Carnoustie starting July 19. Those will go to players not already exempt among the top 12 finishers in West Virginia. □



# Bugs, 'lucky' foe send No. 2 seed Wozniacki out of Wimbledon

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**  
AP Tennis Writer

**LONDON (AP)** — Caroline Wozniacki complained about the flying insects at Wimbledon, demanding that bug spray be brought to the court.

She wondered aloud whether play should be halted because of a brief drizzle.

And the No. 2-seeded Wozniacki was not exactly gracious in defeat after staving off five match points, but not the sixth, in what became a 6-4, 1-6, 7-5 loss to 35th-ranked Ekaterina Makarova of Russia in the second round at the All England Club on Wednesday.

The reigning Australian Open champion's latest lackluster showing at Wimbledon made her the fifth top-eight seeded woman to exit by the end of Day 3. Wozniacki said Makarova "got a little lucky" and added, "I would be very surprised if you saw her go far."

Asked what she thought of those remarks, Makarova laughed and replied: "Well, I don't know what to say. Yeah, maybe I was lucky today. Good for me. Thanks, God."

While both Williams sisters moved into the third round, as did past U.S. Open runners-up Madison Keys and Karolina Pliskova, among the women, and Roger Federer won 35 consecutive points on his serve while extending his Wimbledon set streak to 26 in a row, it was Wozniacki's departure that counted as the closest thing to big news on Wednesday.

She is a former No. 1 who recently claimed her first Grand Slam title. She won a grass-court tuneup tournament last weekend.

She had managed to convince herself this was going to be her year to shine at the All England Club, the only major where she's never been past the fourth round. In addition to her title on the hard courts in Australia, she's twice been the runner-up on that surface at the U.S. Open, and she's been a quarter-

finalist twice on the French Open's red clay.

But a game that is principally predicated on defense can be harder to make work on the speedy grass, where Makarova produced twice as many winners Wednesday, 46-23. "It's frustrating," Wozniacki said, "because I feel like I could have gone and done something really great here."

Instead, it's the fourth time in the past seven years that she's out in the first or second round.

She almost put together quite a comeback, though. After trailing 5-1 in the third set, Wozniacki broke twice when Makarova served for the match. The second time, at 5-3,

Makarova was within a point of victory four times, but was unable to convert, wasting one of those opportunities with a double-fault.

Once Wozniacki pulled even in the last set by holding at love, Makarova gave herself a bit of a talking-to. "At 5-all, I said to myself: 'OK, calm down. Start over,'" recounted Makarova, a former top-10 player who twice has been a major semifinalist and got to the Wimbledon quarterfinals in 2014.

From deuce in that game, she picked up six of the last seven points.

Earlier in the match, Wozniacki was buggin' out about the bugs that also showed up last year at the tournament. She insisted that something needed to be done about them.

Makarova, too, called the scene "a little bit strange and different" and "a little bit uncomfortable."

That word also described how Makarova's left-handed game made Wozniacki feel.

"I had a chance today. I fought all I had. I'm out. That's it," said Wozniacki, who actually won more total points, 94-91. "It's life sometimes.

You just have to keep working and come back. And hopefully next time, luck will be on my side."

All that really matters, of



Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark shakes her head to avoid the flying insects on court during the women's singles match against Ekaterina Makarova of Russia on the third day at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Wednesday July 4, 2018.

Associated Press

course, is who wins the last point, something five-time champion Venus Williams did after a poor start for the second round in a row.

Once again, she dropped the opening set.

And once again, she domi-

nated the rest of the way, this time beating 141st-ranked qualifier Alexandra Dulgheru of Romania 4-6, 6-0, 6-1.

At 38, Williams was the oldest woman in the field, but she is now into the third

round a year after getting to the final.

"I mean, it's just about winning the match. And so, if that's your best or not, your best doesn't matter," Williams said, "as long as you win." □



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## NBA estimates 40,000 more travel miles in a top 16 playoffs

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**  
AP Basketball Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The NBA estimates an increase of 40,000 miles of travel in the postseason if it scrapped its current conference format and took the top 16 teams. Calls to change the system were renewed this week when LeBron James left Cleveland for the Los Angeles Lakers, which could create another strong Western Conference team, where both Houston and Golden State finished above .700. The only team in the Eastern Conference with a similar record was Toronto. Houston and Golden State met in a thrilling West final before the Warriors swept the Cavaliers in the NBA Finals. Commissioner Adam Silver has said ideally there would be a format allowing the two best teams to meet for the title, but he has repeatedly expressed concern about the additional



In this May 11, 2014, file photo, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, center, talks with Magic Johnson, right, as Kiki Vandeweghe looks on as they watch the Los Angeles Clippers play the Oklahoma City Thunder in the first half of Game 4 of the Western Conference semifinal NBA basketball playoff series, in Los Angeles.

travel that would be created if teams were seeded 1 to 16 in the postseason, in-

stead of the current format in which it's the top eight teams in each conference.

"I think, as I've said in the past, the obstacle is travel, and it's not tradition in my

mind, at least," Silver said at the All-Star break. "It's that as we've added an extra week to the regular season, as we've tried to reduce the number of back-to-backs, that we are concerned about teams criss-crossing the country in the first round, for example. We are just concerned about the overall travel that we would have in the top 16 teams."

The league says it averages about 90,000 miles of total travel in the postseason and estimates that would increase to 130,000. It estimates, based on historical data, an average of 2½ series per year matching teams separated by three time zones before the NBA Finals, with about a 90 percent chance of at least one per season. The WNBA switched its playoff format to the top eight teams instead of by conference in 2016. □

Associated Press

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## Slugfest! Kershaw wins, Dodgers bang 6 HRs, beat Pirates 8-3

By The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Clayton Kershaw earned his first win in 2 ½ months, five Dodgers homered including Max Muncy with a pair, and Los Angeles beat Pittsburgh.

Ivan Nova (4-6) became the first pitcher in Pirates history to give up five homers in a game. Pittsburgh has been outscored 25-4 in the first two games of the series. The Dodgers have 11 homers three days into July and 122 so far this season after slugging a major league-leading and franchise-record 55 in June.

Kershaw (2-4) allowed two runs and four hits in six innings of his third start since coming off the disabled list. The left-handed ace struck out two and didn't walk anyone to earn his first victory since April 15 at Arizona. He had two losses and four straight no-decisions since then.

Kershaw had not gone as late as July 3 with just one win since his rookie year in 2008. That year he didn't earn his second victory until Aug. 7.

**DIAMONDBACKS 4, CARDINALS 2**

**PHOENIX (AP)** — Paul Goldschmidt hit a three-run homer, Zack Greinke pitched effectively into the seventh inning and Arizona ended a four-game losing streak by beating St. Louis. Goldschmidt followed a

four-hit night Monday with a three-run homer off Jack Flaherty (3-4) in the fifth inning. The NL player of the month for June, Goldschmidt is hitting .413 with 11 homers and 28 RBIs his past 26 games.

Greinke (9-5) gave up two runs in the second inning to end his 13-inning scoreless streak but was otherwise sharp in winning his fourth straight game.

Yoshihisa Hirano needed one pitch to get a ground-out with the bases loaded in the seventh and extend his team record with a 26th straight scoreless appearance.

Brad Boxberger worked around a walk in the ninth for his 20th save in 24 chances.

**PHILLIES 3, ORIOLES 2**

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Zach Eflin pitched seven strong innings for his sixth straight victory and Andrew Knapp had the winning hit for the second straight game.

Rhys Hoskins had a two-run double for the Phillies, who have won 11 of 16.

Mark Trumbo homered for Baltimore, which has dropped eight of nine.

The game was delayed at the start 1 hour, 25 minutes due to rain and mostly played under a persistent drizzle.

Eflin (7-2) allowed two runs on five hits with six strikeouts and no walks to become the first Phillies pitcher since Cliff Lee in 2011 to record six consecutive wins.

Orioles starter Alex Cobb (2-10) gave up three runs on four hits with five strikeouts and three walks in 6 2/3 innings.

**CUBS 5, TIGERS 3**

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Anthony Rizzo drove in his second run of the game in the seventh

inning to snap a tie, Kyle Schwarber followed with a solo homer in the eighth and Chicago rebounded from an early three-run deficit to edge Detroit for its fifth straight win.

With one out in the seventh, Jason Heyward and Ben Zobrist singled off reliever Daniel Stumpf (1-4). Rizzo's slow bouncer up the middle resulted in a force of Zobrist at second, but Jose Iglesias' throw to first was too late to double up Rizzo and Heyward scored from third to put Chicago ahead for the first time, 4-3. Trailing 3-0, Albert Almora, Jr. and Heyward each drove in a run with a double, then Rizzo followed with an RBI single in Chicago's three-run fifth.

Justin Wilson (3-2) worked around an error to pitch a scoreless seventh and earn the win. Pedro Strop pitched a scoreless ninth for his second save in four chances.

**BREWERS 2, TWINS 0**

**MILWAUKEE (AP)** — Eric Thames hit a two-run homer and three pitchers combined on a two-hit shutout as Milwaukee beat Minnesota.

The Twins fell to 1-7 on their current nine-game road trip.

Milwaukee broke through in the fifth against starter Jake Odorizzi (3-6) when pinch-hitter Nate Orf walked and stole second before Thames hit his 12th home run of the season, a liner that barely cleared the right-field fence.

Milwaukee starter Junior Guerra (5-5) pitched five shutout innings. He gave up two hits while walking three and striking out eight.

Josh Hader pitched a season-high three innings in



Los Angeles Dodgers' Max Muncy, right, heads to first on a solo home run off Pittsburgh Pirates starting pitcher Ivan Nova, front, during the third inning of a baseball game Tuesday, July 3, 2018, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

relief for the Brewers and didn't allow a hit. Corey Knebel notched his ninth save in 11 attempts by striking out the side in the ninth.

**ROCKIES 8, GIANTS 1**

**DENVER (AP)** — Antonio Senzatela pitched seven scoreless innings in his first start of the season, Nolan Arenado hit his NL-leading 22nd home run and Colorado beat San Francisco. Colorado's Charlie Blackmon had three hits, including his first homer since June 20.

Trevor Story had an RBI triple for the Rockies, who have won five of six.

Senzatela (3-1), recalled earlier in the day from Triple-A Albuquerque, struck out four and walked none while limiting the Giants to three hits.

Chris Stratton (8-6) went 5 2/3 innings and allowed eight runs on 11 hits.

**WHITE SOX 12, REDS 8**

**CINCINNATI (AP)** — Daniel Palka and Avisail Garcia each homered twice, and Yoan Moncada tripled with the bases loaded in the 12th inning as Chicago pulled off its biggest comeback of the season.

Trailing 7-2 after five innings, the White Sox pulled even in the ninth on Garcia's solo homer off Raisel Iglesias, then pulled it out with the help of a couple of Reds errors.

They loaded the bases in the 12th with a walk and two errors. Moncada's triple off Jackson Stephens (2-1) broke the tie, and Yolmer Sanchez followed with another triple. □




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# Red Sox win 11-4 to drop Nationals to .500

By The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Xander Bogaerts hit a three-run homer during a six-run fifth inning, J.D. Martinez and Eduardo Nunez also went deep, and the Boston Red Sox beat the Washington Nationals 11-4 on Tuesday. Martinez drove in four and leads the majors with 26 homers and 71 RBIs. Boston has won 17 of its last 19 interleague games.

Washington has lost four straight and 16 of 21 to fall to 42-42, its first time at .500 since it was 17-17.

Red Sox starter Brian Johnson allowed two runs in 4 2/3 innings. Brandon Workman (1-0) pitched a perfect seventh.

Nationals starter Tanner Roark (3-10) allowed a career-high nine runs in seven innings and is 1-8 with a 5.19 ERA in 12 appearances (11 starts) since May 5.

## YANKEES 8, BRAVES 5

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Giancarlo Stanton, Aaron Hicks and Kyle Higashioka each homered and New York went ahead early and hung on to beat Atlanta.

Aaron Judge had two hits and a walk, and he stole two bases for the first time in his career. Hicks also walked twice as New York drew eight free passes.

The Yankees improved to a major league-best 21-6



**Boston Red Sox' Eduardo Nunez, left, celebrates knocking in Mitch Moreland and Rafael Devers for a three-run homer during the second inning of an interleague baseball game against the Washington Nationals at Nationals Park Tuesday, July 3, 2018, in Washington.**

Associated Press

against left-handed starters and remain a game behind Boston for the majors' best record.

Nick Markakis and Ender Inciarte each hit two-run homers for Atlanta, which ended a four-game winning streak. Braves starter Sean Newcomb allowed five runs in 2 2/3 innings in the shortest start of his career.

A.J. Cole (2-0) pitched 1 2/3 innings of shutout relief

to earn the win.

## MARINERS 4, ANGELS 1

**SEATTLE (AP)** — Wade LeBlanc allowed one run over seven innings and Seattle beat Los Angeles for its eighth straight victory.

The Angels' Shohei Ohtani was activated from the 10-day disabled list and went 0 for 4 with two strikeouts in his return.

He had been sidelined since June 8 with a Grade 2 ulnar collateral ligament

sprain.

The Mariners announced they signed LeBlanc (4-0) to a contract extension before his start and the soft-tossing left-hander showed them they made a good decision. LeBlanc allowed three hits, struck out four and retired his final 11 batters.

Andrew Heaney (4-6) tied a career high with 10 strikeouts, but was tagged with three runs in the first inning

to fall behind and was handed the loss.

## INDIANS 6, ROYALS 4

**KANSAS CITY (AP)** — Yan Gomes hit a sixth-inning grand slam as Cleveland rallied to beat Kansas City. The Indians lead the AL with eight grand slams. Francisco Lindor hit a grand slam Monday.

Edwin Encarnacion led off the sixth with a walk and Brandon Guyer was hit by a pitch from Danny Duffy (4-8). Yonder Alonso's infield single loaded the bases. Gomes drove a 1-0 Duffy pitch into the left-field bullpen.

Chad Allen got the final four outs for his 17th save in 18 chances. He stranded two runners in the ninth after a single and a walk.

Shane Bieber (4-0) picked up the victory and remains undefeated in his first five big league starts.

## BLUE JAYS 8, METS 6

**TORONTO (AP)** — Lourdes Gurriel Jr. hit a tiebreaking two-run home run in the eighth inning and Toronto rallied from a five-run deficit to beat New York.

Yangervis Solarte hit a tying three-run home run off Robert Gsellman in the seventh before Gurriel went deep off Tim Peterson (1-1) in the eighth as the Blue Jays won for the 11th time in 14 home games. □

# Ohtani back as DH, to be evaluated for pitching in 3 weeks

**SEATTLE (AP)** — The Los Angeles Angels activated two-way sensation Shohei Ohtani from the 10-day disabled list Tuesday and used him as the designated hitter in their game against the Seattle Mariners.

Ohtani and his injured right elbow are only cleared to hit for now, but Los Angeles said he will be re-evaluated as a pitcher in three weeks.

Ohtani received stem cell therapy and a platelet-rich plasma injection to help heal the Grade 2 sprain of his ulnar collateral ligament suffered more than three weeks ago. Ohtani was cleared for a hit-



**Los Angeles Angels' Shohei Ohtani heads to the dugout after striking out to Seattle Mariners reliever Edwin Diaz to end a baseball game Tuesday, July 3, 2018, in Seattle. The Mariners won 4-1.**

ting program Friday and took part in two simulated games against minor league pitchers over the weekend.

"We're going to see how many looks we can give him as a (designated hitter) and hopefully he'll give us a lift there," Angels man-

ager Mike Scioscia said. Ohtani went 0 for 4 in Los Angeles' 4-1 loss to the Mariners.

Scioscia said there's no plan in terms of Ohtani's usage, and they'll monitor it daily.

"He's been cleared to swing and we will see how it all goes down," Scioscia said. "I check with my players all the time to make sure nothing is bothering them, but we don't anticipate anything as far as him swinging the bat."

Ohtani is hitting .280 with an .878 OPS and six homers in 118 at-bats in his rookie season. He batted sixth on Tuesday.

"I think it's a good spot for

him," Scioscia said. "When you're talking about Mike (Trout), Albert (Pujols), Justin (Upton) and (Andrelton) Simmons, hitting sixth behind those guys will hopefully be a good spot for him to hit, but also just trying to get him acclimated. We don't want him to say, 'I have to do so much,' if he's hitting higher in the lineup." Scioscia emphasized that Ohtani was not being rushed back into the lineup.

"He would not be playing here tonight if he wasn't cleared by our medical department," Scioscia said. "We were very comfortable that he was able to swing the bat." □



## NCAA

Continued from Page 17

College football as a public entity can't institute a Rooney Rule like the NFL, which compels teams to interview minority candidates for head coaching jobs. So instead of focusing all its efforts on the schools, the NCAA is putting some of its rising coaching candidates through its Champion Forum to better prepare them for the interview process.

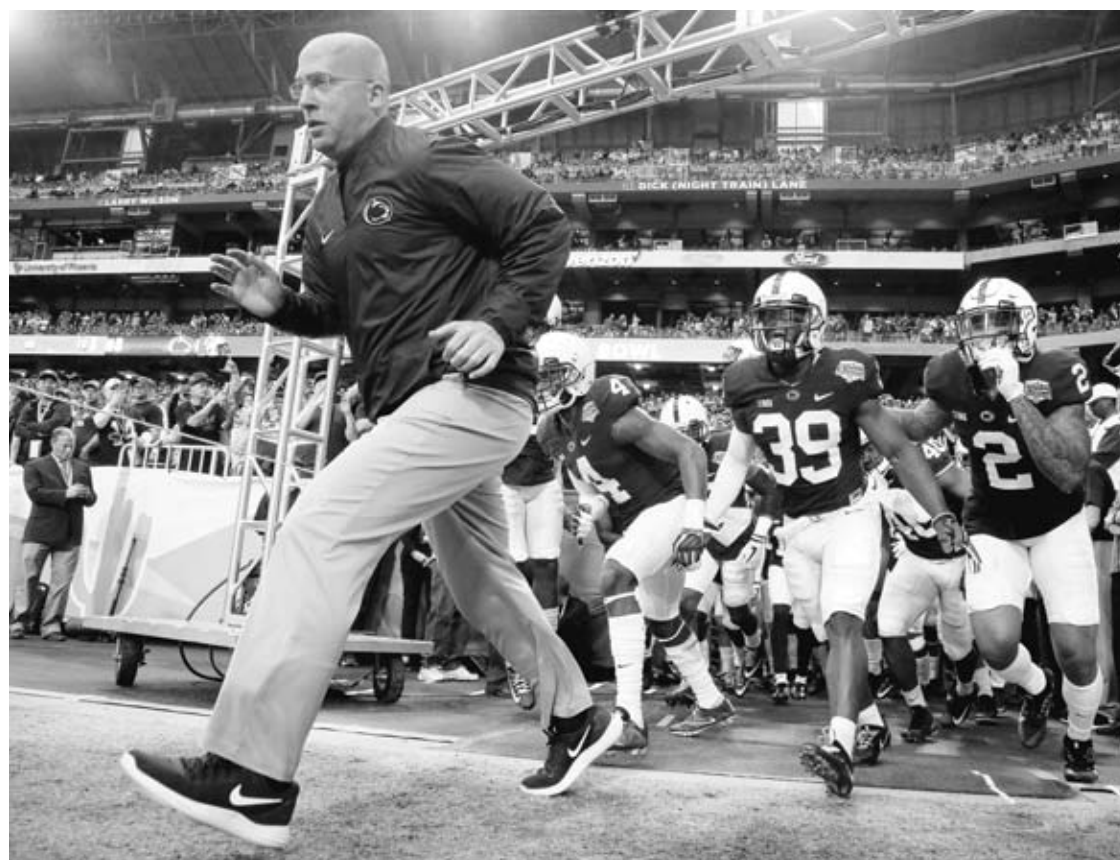
"You can't shame people into hiring people," said Oliver, a former University of Virginia athletics administrator who now works with the Champion Forum. "You can't tell (schools) what they need to be doing. But what we can do is make sure (the candidates) are ready." Minorities make up only 19 percent of Division I head football coaches and less across the Power Five conferences: the ACC, SEC, Big Ten, Big 12 and Pac 12. In contrast, 61 percent of Division I players are minorities.

The Champion Forum has helped Penn State's James Franklin, Vanderbilt's Derek Mason, Stanford's David Shaw, Arizona's Kevin Sumlin and others get head jobs, with the aim of pushing along the next generation. Elliott, Michigan assistant head coach Pep Hamilton, LSU defensive coordinator Dave Aranda, Florida State defensive coordinator Har-

lon Barnett, South Carolina offensive coordinator Bryan McClendon and Navy offensive coordinator Ivin Jasper are all part of the latest class. Picked by their conferences and schools to go through the program, they're all in Phase 2, which includes one-on-one mock interviews, conversations with search firms and information about contracts and what to expect from being a head coach.

"It's just the knowledge of what goes into becoming a head coach, what (athletic directors) look for, what search firms look for," said Jasper, who has been a candidate for jobs at Georgia Southern, Yale and Rice during his time at Navy. "Having those tools in our toolbox now and know what people look for, now we can address those issues and work on getting better at it."

Jasper and Elliott had back-to-back mock interviews with their wives seated a few feet away. Oliver played the role of the interviewer for a job at a fictional Atlantic University in Florida, firing questions at each coach about a head job and asking if they had any questions of their own. Afterward, Oliver critiqued them on everything from how fast they were talking to what they shouldn't have said. Oliver has seen coaches go from not being able to finish answers



In this Dec. 30, 2017, file photo, Penn State head coach James Franklin takes the field with his team prior to the Fiesta Bowl NCAA college football game against Washington, in Glendale, Ariz.

Associated Press

to having a better idea of what to expect the next time the phone rings about an opening.

"Had I not gone through this process, I wouldn't know what I was getting into," Elliott said. "I wouldn't have been encouraged to go prepare in the areas where I needed to prepare to ultimately be successful. Because at the end of the day, it's not just becoming a head coach. It's being a successful head coach and building a successful program."

The success of coaches like Franklin helps because Oliver is well aware that minority coaches who don't suc-

ceed are less likely to get a second chance. In his eight years running the Champion Forum, director of NCAA leadership development Curtis Hollomon has seen progress with more minority coaches being in the mix for openings.

"What we've seen is the awareness of these coaches," Hollomon said. "That's one of the main things that we're trying to do: let them know that these coaches are out there, they're in these positions and they're ready when the opportunities present themselves."

The program includes two steps of interview training, video clips to show

strengths and weaknesses, and an in-person follow-up by former Washington Redskins general manager Charley Casserly and other officials. This year, the NCAA invited the coordinators' wives to sit in on the program and welcomed their input.

"It made me realize how much he has grown," said Elliott's wife, Tameka. "Just watching him grow and seeing his transition and seeing how he has to interact with more people than he was used to interacting with — not just the player and the family. Now you've got the AD and fundraisers, stuff like that." □

## FIFA rebukes Maradona for criticizing World Cup referee

By **GRAHAM DUNBAR**  
AP Sports Writer

**MOSCOW (AP)** — FIFA's patience with Diego Maradona's World Cup antics finally ran out on Wednesday. Soccer's world body said it "strongly rebukes" comments by the Argentina great criticizing American referee Mark Geiger's handling of England's win against Colombia in the World Cup round of 16.

It was yet another controversial moment involving Maradona — an official

FIFA ambassador and figurehead of its "Legends" program celebrating former players — at a World Cup he has mostly attended as a VIP guest of FIFA.

FIFA hit back at Maradona for telling Venezuelan broadcaster Telesur the outcome of Tuesday's game in Moscow was a "monumental theft."

Maradona had been photographed before the game wearing a yellow Colombia jersey.

FIFA said Maradona's "in-

situations" were "entirely inappropriate and completely unfounded."

"FIFA is extremely sorry to read such declarations from a player who has written the history of our game," it said in a statement. FIFA had tolerated previous incidents by Maradona at games in Russia, which the 1986 World Cup winning captain was left to explain on his Facebook page. He apologized for making an offensive gesture toward a South Korean



Argentinian soccer legend Diego Armando Maradona waves to visitors during the round of 16 match between France and Argentina, at the 2018 soccer World Cup at the Kazan Arena in Kazan, Russia, Saturday, June 30, 2018.

Associated Press

fan at Argentina's opening 1-1 draw with Iceland in Moscow. He then suggested media were trying

to make headlines from an innocent incident and also broke World Cup stadium rules by smoking a cigar. □



# How much all-seeing AI surveillance is too much?

By **MATT O'BRIEN**

**AP Technology Writer**

**BOSTON (AP)** — When a CIA-backed venture capital fund took an interest in Rana el Kaliouby's face-scanning technology for detecting emotions, the computer scientist and her colleagues did some soul-searching — and then turned down the money. "We're not interested in applications where you're spying on people," said el Kaliouby, the CEO and co-founder of the Boston startup Affectiva. The company has trained its artificial intelligence systems to recognize if individuals are happy or sad, tired or angry, using a photographic repository of more than 6 million faces.

Recent advances in AI-powered computer vision have accelerated the race for self-driving cars and powered the increasingly sophisticated photo-tagging features found on Facebook and Google. But as these prying AI "eyes" find new applications in store checkout lines, police body cameras and war zones, the tech companies developing them are struggling to balance business opportunities with difficult moral decisions that could turn off customers or their own workers.

El Kaliouby said it's not hard to imagine using real-time face recognition to pick up on dishonesty — or, in the hands of an authoritarian regime, to monitor reaction to political speech in order to root out dissent. But the small firm, which spun off from an MIT research lab, has set limits on what it will do.

The company has shunned "any security, airport, even lie detection stuff," el Kaliouby said. Instead, Affectiva has partnered with automakers trying to help tired-looking drivers stay awake, and with consumer brands that want to know if people respond to a product with joy or disgust.

Such queasiness reflects new qualms about the capabilities and possible abuses of all-seeing, always watching AI camera



**In this April 23, 2018, photo, Ashley McManus, global marketing director of the Boston-based artificial intelligence firm, Affectiva, demonstrates facial recognition technology that is geared to help detect driver distraction, at their offices in Boston.**

**Associated Press**

systems — even as authorities are growing more eager to use them.

In the immediate aftermath of Thursday's deadly shooting at a newspaper in Annapolis, Maryland, police said they turned to face recognition to identify the uncooperative suspect. They did so by tapping a state database that includes mug shots of past arrestees and, more controversially, everyone who registered for a Maryland driver's license.

Initial information given to law enforcement authorities said that police had turned to facial recognition because the suspect had damaged his fingerprints in an apparent attempt to avoid identification. That report turned out to be incorrect and police said they used facial recognition because of delays in getting fingerprint identification.

In June, Orlando International Airport announced plans to require face-identification scans of passengers on all arriving and departing international flights by the end of this year. Several other U.S. airports have already been using such scans for some, but not all, departing international flights.

Chinese firms and municipalities are already using in-

telligent cameras to shame jaywalkers in real time and to surveil ethnic minorities, subjecting some to detention and political indoctrination. Closer to home, the overhead cameras and sensors in Amazon's new cashier-less store in Seattle aim to make shoplifting obsolete by tracking every item shoppers pick up and put back down.

Concerns over the technology can shake even the largest tech firms. Google, for instance, recently said it will exit a defense contract after employees protested the military application of the company's AI technology. The work involved computer analysis of drone video footage from Iraq and other conflict zones.

Similar concerns about government contracts have stirred up internal discord at Amazon and Mi-

crosoft. Google has since published AI guidelines emphasizing uses that are "socially beneficial" and that avoid "unfair bias."

Amazon, however, has so far deflected growing pressure from employees and privacy advocates to halt Rekognition, a powerful face-recognition tool it sells to police departments and other government agencies.

Saying no to some work, of course, usually means someone else will do it. The drone-footage project involving Google, dubbed Project Maven, aimed to speed the job of looking for "patterns of life, things that are suspicious, indications of potential attacks," said Robert Work, a former top Pentagon official who launched the project in 2017. While it hurts to lose Google because they are

"very, very good at it," Work said, other companies will continue those efforts.

Commercial and government interest in computer vision has exploded since breakthroughs earlier in this decade using a brain-like "neural network" to recognize objects in images. Training computers to identify cats in YouTube videos was an early challenge in 2012. Now, Google has a smartphone app that can tell you which breed.

A major research meeting — the annual Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition, held in Salt Lake City in June — has transformed from a sleepy academic gathering of "nerdy people" to a gold rush business expo attracting big companies and government agencies, said Michael Brown, a computer scientist at Toronto's York University and a conference organizer.

Brown said researchers have been offered high-paying jobs on the spot. But few of the thousands of technical papers submitted to the meeting address broader public concerns about privacy, bias or other ethical dilemmas. "We're probably not having as much discussion as we should," he said.

Startups are forging their own paths. Brian Brackeen, the CEO of Miami-based facial recognition software company Kairos, has set a blanket policy against selling the technology to law enforcement or for government surveillance, arguing in a recent essay that it "opens the door for gross misconduct by the morally corrupt." □

## Facebook: 800K users may have had bug unblock blocked people

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Facebook says more than 800,000 users may have been affected by a bug that unblocked people they previously had blocked.

The company said Monday that the bug was active between May 29 and June 5.

While the person who was unblocked by this bug could not see content users shared with their friends, they could have seen things that were posted to a wider audience.

Facebook says the problem has been fixed.

It's the second software

bug in less than a month that the company has notified users about. In June, Facebook disclosed that a software bug led some users to post publicly by default regardless of their previous settings. That bug affected as many as 14 million users over several days in May. □





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## Europe could suffer collateral damage in US-China trade war

By DAVID McHUGH

Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— European businesses are unsettled as they watch the U.S. and China collide over trade. And for good reason: the nascent global trade war could represent the biggest single threat to the economic upswing that has helped the region get past its financial crisis.

In theory, some European companies could benefit, jumping into market niches if Chinese businesses are kept out of the U.S. market. But that would only be a few companies or sectors.

When your entire economy is heavily dependent on trade, an overall slowdown in global commerce caused by tit-for-tat import taxes provokes fear and undermines confidence. And that's just what's happening in Europe. By one measure, business confidence has fallen in six of the past seven months in Germany, where exports are almost half of annual economic output.

"It's worth all our efforts to defuse this conflict, so it doesn't become a war," German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Wednesday. The U.S. is due to put tariffs on \$34 billion worth of Chinese goods on Friday. The Chinese will respond with tariffs on an equivalent value of U.S. products such as soybeans, seafood and crude oil.

Amid all this, Europe has its own trade dispute with the U.S. After the U.S. put tariffs on steel and aluminum from many allies, including the European Union, the 28-country bloc responded with import taxes on some \$3.25 billion of U.S. goods. The Trump administration is also studying the option of putting tariffs on cars, which would significantly



The Yang Ming shipping line container ship Ym Utmost is unloaded at the Port of Oakland on Monday, July 2, 2018, in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

escalate the confrontation. The head of the EU's executive, Jean-Claude Juncker, will head to Washington in late July to try to personally persuade Trump against further measures targeting Europe.

The disputes over trade threaten to spoil the good times for Europe's economy.

Growth last year was the strongest in a decade, since before the global financial crisis. While that has eased in recent quarters, the economy is still strong enough to create jobs. The number of unemployed fell by 125,000 in May, leaving unemployment in the 19 countries that use the euro at 8.4 percent, the lowest since 2008 and down from a high of 12.1 percent in 2013.

"Trade tensions stoked by U.S. President Donald Trump are clouding the economic outlook in Europe," wrote analysts at Berenberg bank in London. They rated the trade risk ahead of troubles from Italy's heavy debt load or faster than expected interest rate increases from

the U.S. Federal Reserve. Many European companies would suffer because they both produce and sell goods in the U.S. and China, the world's biggest economies.

For example, tariffs that China is expected to impose Friday on U.S.-made autos would hit German carmakers Daimler and BMW since they both make vehicles in the United States and export them to China.

Daimler has already lowered its outlook for profits, citing higher than expected costs from the new tariffs. BMW warned in a letter to Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross on Friday that tariffs would make it harder for it to sell in China the vehicles it builds at its factory in Spartanburg, South Carolina, "potentially leading to a strongly reduced export volumes and negative effects on investment and employment in the United States."

Last year, BMW exported 272,000 vehicles from the Spartanburg plant, more than half its total production. Of those, 81,000 —

worth \$2.37 billion — went to China. BMW says its exports reduced the U.S. trade deficit by around \$1 billion.

By themselves, the tariffs that take effect Friday won't immediately have a dramatic impact on global trade. The fear is that retaliation will spiral, hitting the total amount of global commerce.

Even if the overall effect is to harm growth, there could be benefits for some European companies and sectors. Economists Alicia Garcia Herrero and Jianwei Xu at the French bank Natixis say that European makers of cars, aircraft, chemicals, computer chips

and factory machinery could in theory snare market share by substituting for Chinese or American products in the two markets. But that's only if Europe's own trade dispute with the U.S. does not escalate — a big if.

Europe is waiting to see whether the Trump administration will go ahead separately with tariffs on auto imports. European companies like BMW, Daimler's Mercedes-Benz, Volkswagen's Porsche and Audi divisions, and Fiat Chrysler send \$46.6 billion worth of vehicles every year to the U.S. Some 13.3 million people, or 6.1 percent of the employed population of the EU, work in the automotive sector, according to the European Automobile Manufacturers Association. "Europe cannot win anything" on an overall basis "for one obvious reason: we are net exporters," said Garcia Herrero, chief economist for Asia Pacific at Natixis and a senior fellow at European research institute Bruegel. "But we should not understate the view that some sectors could get something out of a U.S.-China trade war."

Amid the brewing conflict, China has sought to get Europe on its side, putting on a diplomatic charm offensive during visits by Merkel and French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe. □

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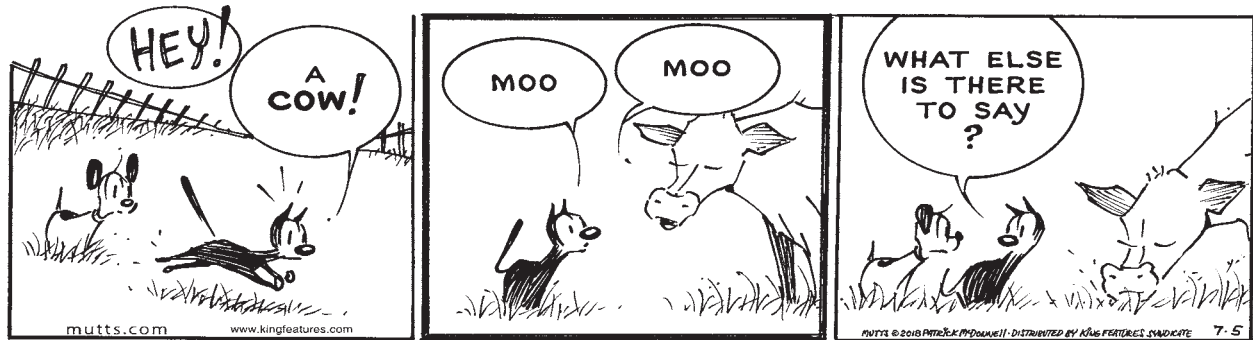
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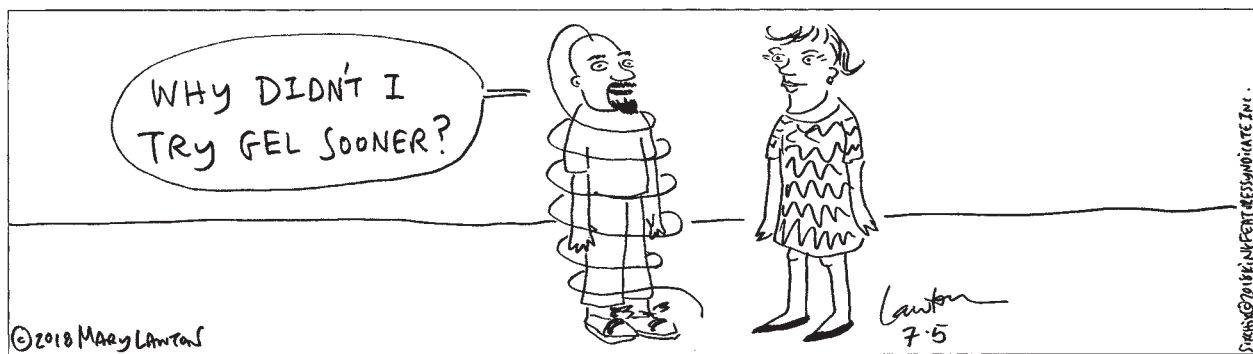
Bubali 143, in front of SuperFood Plaza Mall



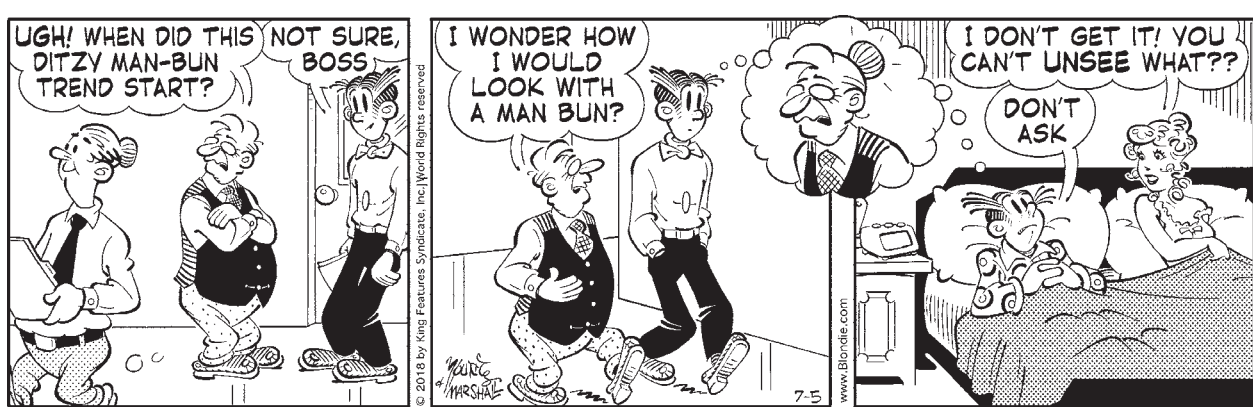
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

				5		2	1	
3		4						
8				2			4	
			7		2			
4		9				6		1
			4		9			
	5			4				7
						5		3
	9	6		7				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/05

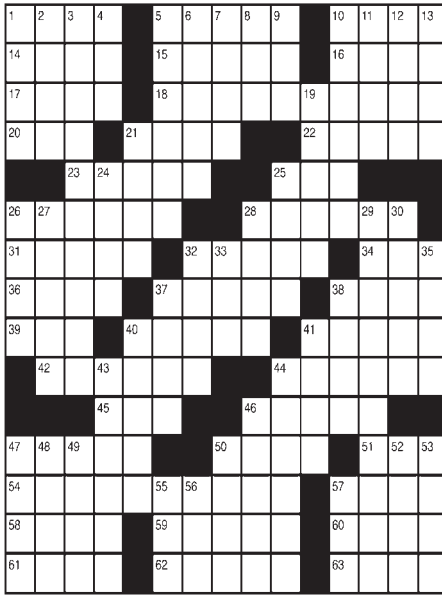
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

4	1	9	8	2	6	3	5	7
8	6	7	1	3	5	9	4	2
3	5	2	4	7	9	6	1	8
7	9	6	5	8	3	4	2	1
2	8	1	6	9	4	7	3	5
5	3	4	2	1	7	8	9	6
6	7	5	3	4	2	1	8	9
9	4	8	7	5	1	2	6	3
1	2	3	9	6	8	5	7	4

ACROSS

- 1 "The \_\_\_ Ranger"  
5 \_\_\_ of the world;  
elated  
10 Singer  
Fitzgerald  
14 Individuals  
15 Makes dirty  
16 Lunchtime  
17 Play divisions  
18 Forecast  
20 Hair covering  
21 Weapons  
22 Implies  
23 Minstrels' harps  
25 \_\_\_-tac-toe  
26 Written  
agreement  
28 Most rational  
31 Dangers  
32 Lively dance  
34 Faucet  
36 Martian  
vehicles, for  
short  
37 TV's Mandel  
38 Long sandwich  
39 Common street  
name  
40 St. Helens or  
Sinai  
41 British noble  
42 More mysterious  
44 Football score  
45 Long-eared  
animal  
46 Disney dog  
47 Bowler's feat  
50 \_\_\_ ripper;  
sewing  
implement  
51 Cruise, for one  
54 Billfold contents  
57 Jekyll's alter ego  
58 Grows gray  
59 Still breathing  
60 Come \_\_\_; find  
61 Home of twigs  
62 Talk out of  
63 Bookish fellow



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 7/5/18

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

PLED	SLAM	WHOA
LOADS	HULA	HANG
AGREE	EXISTENCE	
NET	WED	SANDED
HEEDS	ABC	
MOLARS	AGLEAM	
AMISS	THREE	COB
RENT	LOOMS	TRUE
EGG	PINTS	MOOSE
ASSETS	SUPPER	
PRE	MARSH	
ECLAIR	ONA	ODE
CHARLATAN	LABEL	
HONE	COAT	STINK
OWED	YEAH	MATS

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- 37 Gardening tools  
38 Ax handle  
40 Tightwad  
41 Author of "The  
Wizard of Oz"  
43 Most uncommon  
44 Killer  
46 Vex  
47 Bridge  
48 Summon with a  
beeper  
49 Makes fun of  
50 In a \_\_\_; pouty  
52 Nose's detection  
53 Repair  
55 Insane  
56 "Grand \_\_\_ Opry"  
57 Attila, for one

DOWN

- 1 Money  
borrowed  
2 \_\_\_ in a while;  
occasionally  
3 Irritating  
4 Curvy letter  
5 Fish hawk



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1st Floor/Harbor View

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5th Floor/Pool View

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5th Floor/Pool&Ocean View  
**Wk 29, Unit 2524 \$6,500**  
5th Floor/Harbor View

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5th Floor/Pool&Ocean View  
**Wk 32, Unit 2332 \$3,500**  
3rd Floor/Harbor View

**Wk 33, Unit 2332 \$3,500**  
3rd Floor/Harbor View  
**Wk 34, Unit 2121 \$5,000**  
1st Floor/Pool View

**Wk 34, Unit 2123 \$5,000**  
1st Floor/Pool View  
**Wk 34, Unit 2515 \$3,750**  
5th Floor/Pool View

**Wk 35, Unit 2120 \$4,000**  
Ground Floor/Harbour View  
**Wk 35, Unit 2315 \$3,500**  
3rd Floor/Pool View

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5th Floor/Ocean Front

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Pool View  
**Wk 28, Unit 112 b/c \$5,000**  
Pool View

**Wk 30 Unit 227A \$4000**  
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Garden View

**Wk 35, Unit 140C/226C \$5,000**  
Pool View

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Divi Dutch Village  
**Wk 17, Unit 138 \$5,000**

Divi Dutch Village  
**Wk 19, Unit 72 \$4,000 OBO**  
Divi Phoenix/Ocean View  
**Wk 6, Unit 706 \$15,000**

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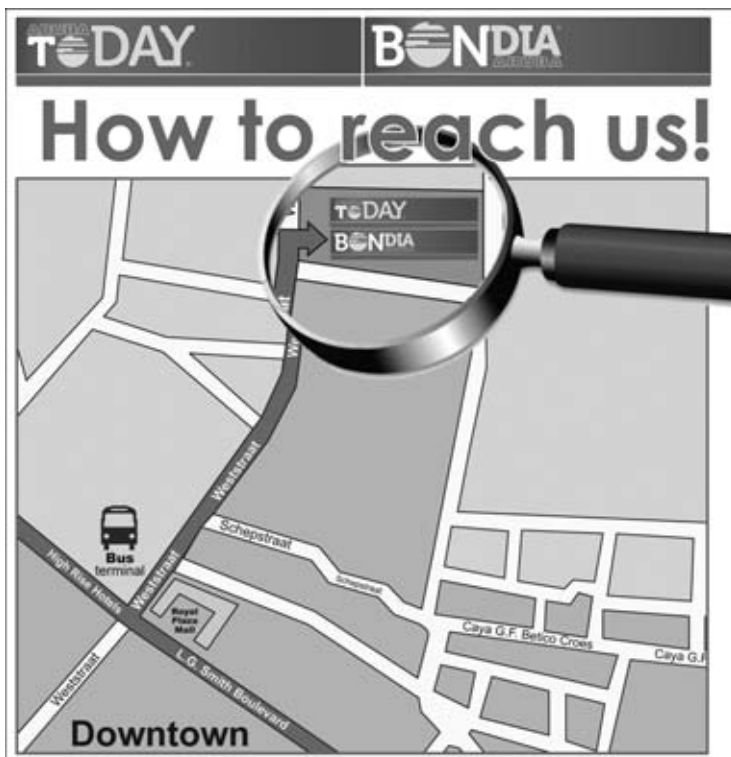
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# Scientists create hybrids in race to save rhino sub-species

By **FRANK JORDANS**

**Associated Press**

**BERLIN (AP)** — Scientists say they're several steps closer to perfecting a method that could prevent the extinction of northern white rhinos, of which only two animals are known still to be alive.

According to a paper published Wednesday in the journal *Nature Communications*, researchers have succeeded in creating embryos using frozen northern white rhino sperm and eggs from a southern white rhino, a closely related sub-species.

It's the first time such hybrid embryos have been created and the scientists from Germany, Italy and the Czech Republic say it could provide a pathway to saving the critically endangered northern white rhino after the last male, called Sudan, died in March.

They plan to harvest the egg cells of the two surviving female rhinos soon and use preserved sperm to produce "pure" northern white rhino embryos. Since the females, a mother and daughter called Najin and Fatu, are unable to bear offspring themselves, the embryos would be implanted in a southern white rhino surrogate.

In order to increase the supply of eggs and preserve



In this Friday, March 2, 2018 photo Fatu, left, and Najin, right, they only two female northern white rhinos left in the world, grace in the pen where they are kept for observation, at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Laikipia county in Kenya.

the northern white rhino's genetic diversity, scientists are also working on a second method that would coax frozen skin cells from deceased animals into becoming egg cells, a procedure that has already succeeded in mice.

Thomas Hildebrandt, of the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research in Berlin, said researchers hope the first northern white rhino calf will be born in about

three years.

"We are quite confident with the technology we have developed," he said during a telephone conference with reporters detailing the research.

Saving the northern white rhino has become an international effort, with cooperation but also some rivalry among scientists and institutions around the world, including zoos in San Diego and Cincinnati.

Some experts have criticized the effort however, saying it comes too late.

"I have no doubt that its purely scientific merit is laudable and it might have some application to endangered species conservation in the future," said Richard Kock, a conservationist at Britain's Royal Veterinary College who has worked extensively in Africa. "But I am afraid it is very much Nero fiddling

after Rome is burning with respect to (northern) white rhino."

Kock and fellow conservationists warned against focusing only on the northern white rhino sub-species, noting that its southern cousin has come back from the brink of extinction and now numbers some 21,000 individuals.

Instead, they suggested, work should focus on saving other endangered rhino species that can still be found in the wild.

"Assisted reproductive technologies are very expensive and their success is far from guaranteed. Meanwhile, we don't have enough funding to conserve the other four rhino species, all of which are more threatened with extinction than the white rhino," said Bob Smith, director of the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology

at the University of Kent, England.

Hildebrandt insisted the effort is worthwhile. "The northern white rhino didn't fail in evolution," he said. "It failed because it's not bulletproof. It was slaughtered by criminals which went for the horn because the horn costs more than gold."

Northern white rhinos were once abundant across Central and East Africa, but conflicts and poaching wiped them from their natural habitat.

The rhino's disappearance has left a void in the region's ecosystem that could have significant impacts in the future, Hildebrandt said. "We have the tools in our hands to correct that."

Cesare Galli, whose Italy-based company Avantea has lengthy experience with the artificial reproduction of horses, said recent advances in stem cell technology could help the rhino preservation effort. The team is hoping that within a decade, scientists will be able to produce new rhino eggs from frozen skin cells.

Jan Stejskal, a spokesman for Dvur Kralove Zoo in the Czech Republic, which has a long history of rhino conservation, said scientists hope to travel to Kenya before the end of the year. They are still waiting for permission from Kenyan authorities to perform the delicate procedure of removing egg cells from Najin and Fatu.

While the scientists are confident about being able to harvest eggs from the two females, questions remain over the risk to the rare animals' health.

"We as scientists are highly afraid that something unexpected happens during that procedure," said Hildebrandt. "That would be a nightmare." □

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# 'The First Purge' is depressingly prescient

By MARK KENNEDY  
Associated Press

This Fourth of July, we've got a chance to celebrate America's birth in a very American way — watching internecine warfare, spasms of savage violence and a dark government conspiracy pulling the strings. That's right, it's time for a new Purge.

"The First Purge," the fourth film in the franchise, is an origin story set in modern day New York that allows creator James DeMonaco to do what he does best — mix social satire with doses of heart-pounding horror. It's a worthy addition to the B-movie "Purge" cannon, even as it's depressingly prescient. For those unfamiliar with the low-budget-but-high-earning "Purge" series, here's how it works: In a dystopian near-future, the government, led by a nefarious party called the New Founding Fathers of America, allows an annual 12-hour period of lawlessness without recriminations. Over the course of a single night, rape, murder, robbery and everything else is permitted across the nation as a way to release anger but also a way to cull from an overpopulated nation and lower crime.

Over the past three films, DeMonaco has explored all kinds of different facets to this rich and complex notion, from gun control to the behavior of predatory corporations, to government brutality against people of color and class wars. This time,

DeMonaco sets "The First Purge" on Staten Island, where the first beta test was launched (and is, incidentally, his hometown). He has bafflingly attracted Oscar-winner Marisa Tomei to play the behavioral scientist who has designed the purge for the NRA-backed New Founding Fathers of America.

She's not on any side here; she's just a data-driven gal unwittingly about to unleash holy hell on a sealed-off island.

On the ground, we meet our main players — Y'lan Noel, who makes a hunky

and very charismatic drug kingpin; Lex Scott Davis, as his old girlfriend who has become a community activist; and Joivan Wade as her younger brother, torn between the lure of quick drug money and his sister's unwavering morality. Rotimi Paul makes an absolutely frightening psycho and Steve Harris is an always welcome addition. (There's also a cameo by Van Jones as a TV reporter skeptical of the purges.) DeMonaco has handed over directorial duties this time to Gerard McMurray, who made his feature directorial debut with the Netflix hazing drama "Burning Sands."

It is perhaps fitting that McMurray, an African-American director, helps tell the story of an inner-city minority community under siege that overwhelmingly stars actors of color. McMurray has a deft touch juggling action sequences, humor and intimate dialogue. The first purge actually starts off unevenly, with many Staten Islanders who have stayed (and who have pocketed \$5,000 in the process) choosing to have a boozy block party rather than murder each other. The New Founding Fathers of America soon decide to goose the violence level with a familiar tactic and the film moves into action hero territory, with Noel turning into a John McClane-like hero, and our makeshift community banding together to fight an oppressive regime — very Yankee Doodle Dandy.

The "Purge" films have never been very subtle and "The First Purge" is no different. At one point, the brave ragtag Staten Islanders are being systematically hunted by heavily armed white gunmen wearing KKK hoods or Nazi coats and masks that look like black-face and minstrel shows. (Oh, and big thanks to costume designer Elisabeth Vastola for reprising her work from "The Purge: Election Year" by creating some masks that will haunt my nightmares forever. ☐)



This image by Universal Pictures shows Lex Scott Davis and Joivan Wade, in a scene from "The First Purge."

Associated Press

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# 'Archie' artist honored with statue by his hometown

By STEPHANIE MORALES

Associated Press

**CONCORD, N.H. (AP)** — A life-size bronze statue of a red-haired, freckled Archie will soon greet visitors at a New Hampshire town in honor of the local man who drew the comic book character and his group of wholesome teenage friends.

Bob Montana illustrated Archie, Betty, Veronica and Jughead from 1942 until his death in 1975 at age 54. He lived in Meredith, New Hampshire, for 35 years until he died from a heart attack while cross-country skiing.

"It is a privilege to be able to draw attention to one of our community members who did so much and did it so quietly and so well," said Monica Philbin, executive director of the Greater Meredith Program.

The Greater Meredith Program, a community development nonprofit, raised nearly \$57,000 for the project in less than six months mostly from residents. Architect Chris Williams originally suggested the idea to honor the former Meredith



In this April 19 2017, photo sculptor Valery Mahuchy works on a clay model for his bronze statue of the comic book character "Archie" at his studio in Bethlehem, N.H.

Associated Press

resident with an Archie statue. Williams said no other sculpture of the character exists anywhere.

The one-of-a-kind statue will be commemorated Aug. 9 in Meredith's Com-

munity Park to coincide with the town's 250th anniversary.

Montana brought the Archie Andrews character to life when he drew the first "Archie" comic strip while renting a cottage on Lake Waukegan in 1942.

He was joined by other illustrators over the years, including Tom Moore, who also chronicled Archie's escapades from 1953 until he retired in the 1980s.

The comic strip was distributed in newspapers nationwide a few years later. Its

popularity led the company that originally published the comic books, MLJ Comics, to change their name to Archie Comic Publications in 1946. Over the years, the comic sold billions of copies worldwide and inspired several television shows including "Sabrina the Teenage Witch" and "Riverdale."

In a book about Montana's life, author Carol Lee Anderson noted that he placed Archie at various New Hampshire landmarks, including Lake Winnepesaukee, and even modeled characters after people in the Lakes Region town. Archie's gang of friends were said to be inspired by the cartoonist's high school classmates in Haverhill, Massachusetts, and Montana used drawings of his characters for community fundraisers, including an effort to save a mill building in Laconia.

"My father was very proud to be able to earn his living by bringing a smile to people's faces," said his daughter Lynn Montana, who lives in Meredith. "He wanted to empower Archie as a force of good that was bigger than the comic strip." □

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<p><b>INCREDIBLES 2</b> SAMUEL L. JACKSON   CRAIG T. NELSON WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MONTHURS 4:40   5:05   7:45 FRI 4:40   5:05   7:45   10:25 SAT 2:00   2:25   4:40   5:05   7:45   10:25 SUN &amp; HOL 2:00   2:25   4:40   5:05   7:45 PG</p>	<p><b>OCEAN'S 8</b> SANDRA BULLOCK   CATE BLANCHETT WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MONTHURS 4:30   6:55   9:20 FRI 4:30   6:55   9:20   11:45 SAT 2:05   4:30   6:55   9:20   11:45 SUN &amp; HOL 2:05   4:30   6:55   9:20 PG-13</p>

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## Ray Davies' sequel 'Americana Act II' disappoints

By SCOTT BAUER

Associated Press

Ray Davies, "Our Country: Americana Act II" (Sony Legacy)

Like most sequels, Ray Davies' "Our Country: Americana Act II" doesn't live up to the original.

The Kinks co-founder's latest effort is a follow-up to last year's "Americana," a standout record that marked his first solo effort of original material in nearly a decade.

But instead of a sequel taking things in a new direction, the 19-track "Americana Act II" feels more like a rehash with material that's not as strong as the original.

Part of the problem is that Davies follows the same format as "Americana": new songs mixed with spo-



This cover image released by Sony Legacy shows "Our Country: Americana Act 2," a release by Ray Davies.

Associated Press

ken word excerpts from his 2013 memoir and reinterpretations of old tunes like

"Oklahoma U.S.A." from the Kinks' seminal 1971 album, "Muswell Hillbillies." □



## Exhibit features Ernie Barnes, football player turned artist

By MARTHA WAGGONER

Associated Press

**RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)** — At heart, Ernie Barnes the professional football player was always Ernie Barnes the artist. His teammates on the San Diego Chargers nicknamed him "Big Rembrandt" because he was always scribbling on pieces of paper. He ended up painting vivid and highly acclaimed images from the playing field and from African-American life. He's most famous for "Sugar Shack," which shows African-Americans dancing at the Durham Armory. Marvin Gaye used a version of it for an album cover, and a print of it appeared in the closing credits of the sitcom "Good Times." Now, an exhibit has opened in his home state titled "The North Carolina Roots of Artist Ernie Barnes." The exhibit at the North Carolina Museum of History includes 38 paintings by Barnes, many unseen by the public until now, along with several pieces of memorabilia. It's the first exhibit of Barnes' artwork in 11 years, and the first since he died at age 70 in 2009 in Los Angeles. It continues through March 3. Barnes never considered football his true calling. From his childhood, he was drawn to art. In his 1995 autobiography, "From



This Nov. 15, 1966, file photo shows Ernie Barnes, former offensive lineman for the American and National Football leagues, alongside one of his paintings at the Grand Central Art Gallery, New York.

Pads to Palette," he wrote, "Throughout my five seasons in the arena of professional football, I remained at the deepest level of my being an artist." But he played professionally from 1960 to 1964, signing first with the Baltimore Colts and then with the Titans of New York, the San Diego Chargers and the Denver Broncos. His sports connections led to his first exhibit through the support of New York Jets owner Sonny Wer-

blin. And Barnes credited football with helping him develop the elongation technique for which he's known. An art instructor told him "to pay attention to what my body felt like in movement," Barnes once said. "And when I did that, it was an elongated feeling. ... I hate to think, had I not played sports, what my work would look like." He also spoke of how the "dehumanization" of professional football played out in

his art. "I painted until I exhausted the hate," he said, according to comments provided by his estate. Troy Vincent, the NFL's vice president of operations, is probably the largest collector of Barnes' art and someone in whom Barnes confided about his love-hate relationship with football. Vincent estimates that he owns just shy of 30 Barnes' paintings, most of them commissioned and never seen by the public.

Associated Press

In a phone interview, Vincent said that he and his wife "didn't classify it as black art. He happens to be African-American, but it's not black art. It's art." At the time of Barnes' death, Paul Von Blum, an art history and African American studies professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, called him one of the premier figurative artists of his era. Barnes, who was born in 1938 in Durham during the Jim Crow era, graduated from what's now North Carolina Central University. His painting, "Homecoming," shows a marching band in Durham with U.S. 15-501 signs in the background. "Ernie said when he was growing up, the high school band used to come down from the segregated area and make the turn into the black community, and the band would kick it up right there," Luz Rodriguez, his longtime assistant and estate trustee said last week in Raleigh before the exhibit opened. "So that's what he painted." "Sugar Shack" came from Barnes' memories growing up in Durham, Rodriguez said. His mother had told the 13-year-old Barnes that "they don't do Christian things there" so of course he had to sneak in to find out what was happening, she said. □

## Review: A sense of sadness permeates 'It All Falls Down'

By OLIVE H. COGDILL

Associated Press

"It All Falls Down" (William Morrow), by Sheena Kamal Canadian author Sheena Kamal continues to show how cultural touchstones reverberate into adulthood in her intriguing look at Vancouver research assistant Nora Watts, whose major investigations are uncovering her past. But Kamal's second novel delves deeper into Nora's prickly personality, shaped by her biracial background and the series of foster homes in which she was raised. "It All Falls Down" takes Nora further away from

her tenuous comfort zone. She's approached by a stranger while walking her dog, Whisper, in a park. The man claims to have served in the Marines with her late father, Samuel, while they were stationed in Lebanon. He suggests that Samuel didn't commit suicide as Nora and her sister, Lorelei, have long believed, and that his death may be related to her father's life in Detroit. Samuel was one of the many children who were part of Canada's "Sixties Scoop," in which children of indigenous background were taken from their families and put up for adop-

tion, often to American parents. Nora's trip to Detroit also yields a link to her mother, who left when she and Lorelei were toddlers. With no photographs, Nora doesn't know what her mother looked like, or what her background was. Back in Vancouver, private investigator Jon Brazuca, with whom Nora has a fractured relationship, is hired to investigate the drug overdose of a billionaire's pregnant mistress. Without resorting to clichés, Kamal deftly intersects the investigations of Nora and Jon in a believable plot. Both find themselves targets of killers, and

neither knows why. Kamal's affinity for the unusual, character-driven mystery excels in "It All Falls Down." While Kamal supplies plenty of action and close calls, she concentrates on the characters' motivations. Nora's background has given her a mistrust of people and made her wary of emotions. Jon, who also was her AA sponsor, has never been able to break through her wall. Her closest relationship is with Whisper. A sense of sadness permeates the novel, from Kamal's gritty look at Detroit and unflinching look at Vancouver's neigh-



This cover image released by William Morrow shows "It All Falls Down," by Sheena Kamal. Associated Press  
borhoods to the flawed characters. □



# Traffic 'nightmare' for New York-bound motorists, but when?

By DAVID PORTER

Associated Press

WEEHAWKEN, N.J. (AP) —

With a lengthy highway construction project looming that could turn one of the Northeast's worst traffic bottlenecks into the stuff of post-apocalyptic fiction, local officials whose towns could be overrun by frustrated motorists say they're still in the dark on some aspects of the plan.

When lanes will be closed on the busy Route 495 viaduct connecting the New Jersey Turnpike to the Lincoln Tunnel is one unanswered question. In recent weeks the state Department of Transportation has said its \$90 million project to rebuild the bridge and roadway will require closing a lane in each direction beginning in "mid-summer."

On Tuesday, a department of transportation spokesman said it would be "later this summer." Several local officials involved with discussions with the department said community outreach efforts are still underway and questions linger about handling traffic overflow, an indication the start could be some time away. The pothole-ridden 80-year-old viaduct cuts through parts of Secaucus, North Bergen, Union City and Weehawken and accommodates more than 150,000 motorists daily. Local officials acknowledged the need to replace the bridge structure, which is considered structurally deficient and functionally obsolete. But some expressed



In this Thursday, June 21, 2018 photo, traffic spirals up-and-down a section of Route 495 to the Lincoln Tunnel, in Weehawken, N.J. with the New York City in the background.

Associated Press

concerns about logistics. Weehawken Mayor Richard Turner, whose town squats over the entrance to the tunnel, said he hasn't been given a firm starting date for the lane closures, and has yet to meet with top state transportation officials about the project, though he expects that will happen soon. "We're very concerned about the impact on traffic, and the resulting traffic jams on our local streets," Turner said. "We are extremely concerned about emergency vehicles getting through."

Turner noted that on a Saturday last month, a delay on Route 495 leaving New York left traffic at a standstill

and forced many motorists onto the cramped streets of his town and others. That doesn't bode well for traffic during the bridge reconstruction, when the lanes will be closed 24/7, he said. "I can't imagine what is going to happen on a weekday," Turner said.

According to the department's website, the work can't be performed solely during nighttime hours because the nature of the bridge work makes it impossible to replace portions

each night and then allow traffic back on it during the daytime.

The department's plan includes detours for cars and trucks using Routes 1 and 9 northbound and southbound, where ramps from 495 will be closed off. That is likely to clog streets in Secaucus in a part of town that is home to outlets and big-box stores.

Turner and Secaucus Mayor Michael Gonnelli both said the state hasn't committed to reimbursing their

towns for police overtime that likely will be required for traffic management.

Gonnelli said the traffic overload has the potential to be "a nightmare either way."

"We're downstream from where this is happening, but we are affected anytime something happens, and we're affected badly," he said.

"I try to take my wife out to eat on a Friday night, and you can't get out of town." □



In this Thursday, June 21, 2018, file photo, traffic moves through the Lincoln Tunnel from New Jersey en route to New York City.

Associated Press



In this Thursday, June 21, 2018, file photo, traffic on Route 495 enters the Lincoln Tunnel en route to New York City, in Weehawken, N.J.

Associated Press